



JESUS the SAVIOUR of <sup>E</sup>WORLD.

*To face the Title.*





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A COMPLEAT  
HISTORY  
OF

The Holy Gospel:

Containing the  
Incarnation, Birth, Doctrine, Passion,  
Resurrection, and Ascension

OF OUR  
Lord JESUS CHRIST.

To which is added,

A Journal of the PEREGRINATION of our  
BLESSED SAVIOUR:

Extracted from the four *Evangelists*, the *Acts* of the  
*Apostles*, and other Writings of the

NEW TESTAMENT.

*Digested in a Chronological Order.*

Illustrated with NOTES,

*Explaining several difficult Passages, and reconciling many  
Texts, that are seemingly contradictory.*

Adorn'd with Cuts, engraven by JOHN STURT.

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By LAURENCE HOWEL, A.M.

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The FOURTH EDITION, Very much Corrected.

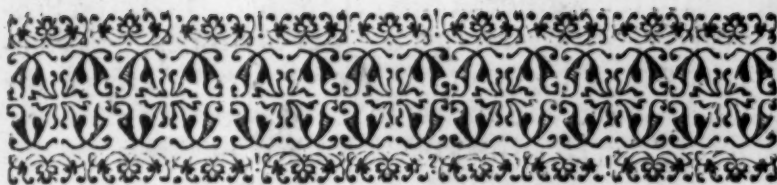
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VOL. III.

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T H E  
P R O E M  
T O T H E  
New Testament.



THE Historical Part of the *New Testament* is contained in the Gospels, and deservedly claims our greatest Esteem, as conveying to us the blessed Tidings of our recovering that happy State which our first Parents forfeited in Paradise. All those Excellencies which in general belong to the *Old Testament*, may in a more peculiar manner be claimed by the *New*; for as St. *Augustin* says, l. i. de *Consens. Evang.* c. i. “What the Law and the Prophets only foretold, the Gospel plainly demonstrates to have been compleated.” If therefore the good and holy Men under the Dispensation of the Law, which was but a Shadow of what hath since come to pass, were encouraged to undergo the severest Persecutions, in hopes of a Reward to come, what greater Incouragement had the Saints under the Gospel to suffer extremity, when the Reward was gone before them? From hence the Church in all Ages has drawn vast Advantage; hence the Martyrs in the midst of their Agonies took Magnanimity, look-  
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ing up to the Author of their Reward. Thus the Protomartyr, St. *Stephen*, in a Shower of Stones, was comforted with a Sight of the Son of God. Hence the holy Apostles, and the rest of our Saviour's Followers, enforced the Doctrines of their Lord, not from the distant Relations of others, but from the more immediate Dictates of his Mouth, whence by a sacred and certain Tradition they have been handed to these times. From hence in the Times of Obscurity and most subtle Heresy, we are secure in the Establishment of our Faith, and plentifully furnished with Arguments and Instructions against the most plausible Errors. From our Saviour's more immediate Example, we learn Humility and Meekness, who, though the Son of God, condescended to the vile Condition of Humanity. From him we learn Patience in Adversity, and Equanimity in the most elevated State of Life: And whatever Blemishes by the Corruptions of Nature may stain our Profession, his Word is our Rule and Guide to set us right again, and restore Religion to its primitive Purity. For this reason our blessed Lord expressly calls himself the Light of the World; of which his Holy Gospel is the happy Vehicle to convey it to Mankind, which till his Incarnation sat in Darkness. And hence the royal Prophet *Isaiah*, foretelling the Coming of our Saviour, says, "The People that walked in Darkness have seen a great Light; they that dwelt in the Land of the Shadow of Death, upon them hath the Light shined, *Isa. 9. 2.*" Which is literally compleated in the Deliverance of the World by Christ, through the Preaching of the Gospel.

From the Precellence therefore of the Gospel's conveying this Light to us, the Scriptures of the New Testament have acquired such Reverence and Veneration, that the Masters of the World, in the earliest Ages of the Church, thought them worthy their highest Care and Esteem. *Constantine* the Great had the Gospels bound up in a Cover of Gold, set with most valuable Jewels. *Theodosius* the Emperor transcribed the Gospels

Gospels with his own Hand, and spent good part of every Night in reading them. The General Councils of *Nice*, *Ephesus*, and *Chalcedon*, placed the Book of the Gospels in the midst of their Assemblies, as *Nicephorus* tells us, *l. 4. c. 3.* that the Holy Fathers might have respect to them as to the Person of Christ. And *St. Cyril of Alexandria*, who liv'd in the Beginning of the fifth Century, tells us, It was by synodical Sanction ordained, that in all solemn Attestations they were to lay their Hand on the Book of the Gospels, and invoke the Help of God in the Holy Gospel. Which Solemnity is continued to this Day, when any one is obliged to take an Oath. Nor was this only observ'd among the Orthodox, but when, through Neglect of Discipline and the Depravity of Morals, Error crept into the Church, the Hereticks themselves paid the same respect to the Gospels, who, though they expunged some Books out of the Canon of Scripture, mutilated and depraved others, never offered by any sacrilegious Attempt to touch or violate the Gospels; [not but that several whimsical Innovators have topt upon the World ridiculous Pseudo-Gospels:] Nay, in so great an Esteem were the Gospels among the Heathens, that *St. Augustin* affirms, *de Civitate Dei, l. 10. c. 29.* he had seen the Beginning of *St. John's* Gospel among the Writings of the *Platonists*. So that the Theologists of all Ages have deservedly, and with a general Consent, styled this Part of Holy Scripture most necessary and useful. And truly, if we have respect to the Subject-Matter, Author, and Method or Manner of them, we shall see those Epithets justly appropriated to the Writings of the *New Testament*, and particularly to the Gospels.

As for the Subject-Matter, it is God himself; whether we respect him as God or Man: For the Gospels describe to us the Words and Acts of Christ our Lord, by which he taught us to believe and do our Duty, and what Methods we ought to take to obtain eternal Happiness, plentifully furnishing us from his own Mouth

with divine Precepts and Counsel, instructing us in the Perfection of a Christian Life, explaining to us Faith, Hope, Charity, the Doctrine of the Trinity, Institution of the Sacraments, and in general, all Theological Subjects; painting Virtue to us in its most amiable Aspect, and describing Vice in its most horrid Appearance and Consequence. So that St. *Jerom* very aptly calls the Gospels, the *Compendium* of Theology, and of Christian Life and Learning.

The Author is no less than the divine Wisdom, who chiefly both speaks and acts in the most material and grand Occurrences of the Gospel: For before, as the Apostle to the *Hebrews* says, *Ch. 1. v. 1, 2.* "God formerly spake to our Fathers by the Prophets, but in these later Days by his Son, whom he hath made Heir of all Things, and by whom he made the World." So that not *Moses* or the Prophets, but the only begotten Son of God, hath by the divine Mind of the Father discovered to us the Secrets of the eternal Wisdom, and communicated them to us in the Holy Gospels. In which those sacred Mysteries, concealed from ancient Times, and barely shadowed out in the typical Expressions of the Law and the Prophets, are plainly discovered.

The Method or Manner of speaking and reasoning in the Holy Gospels is admirable, especially in those Parts wherein it is symbolical; for the Elegancy of the Metaphors, the Aptness of the Similitudes, and Significancy of the Parables are so charming, that the Son of God, like a Celestial *Proteus*, in this Variety of Address is very instructing. One while he compares himself to a King, celebrating the Nuptials of his Son; another while to a great Man calling his Servant to an Account; now to a General waging War, then to a Master of a Family, a Husband-man, a Shepherd, a Fisher-man, a Merchant, an Usurer, &c. In all which the Comparisons are so proper, that he represents himself to our Capacities, not so much by Words, as by the Things themselves; so that in the Gospel we may  
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be said to be instructed as much by the Acts, as Words of Christ: And truly, as St. *Gregory* says, Every Action of Christ is our Instruction. But the Method of the Evangelical Wisdom claims another Excellency: For it is so disposed by the Holy Ghost, that the most simple and ignorant are not destitute of Advantage in the reading it; and at the same time there are Difficulties and Obscurities enough to exercise the Genius of the most sublime Wit. It is indeed plain and easy to the Sincere, Humble, and Willing; but to the Confident, Proud, and Lazy, difficult and obscure. "I thank thee," says our blessed Lord, Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, because thou hast hid these Things from the Wise, and Men of Understanding, and hast revealed them to Babes, *Mat.* 11. 25." In short, the Gospel in respect of the rest of the Scriptures, is like the Sun that communicates Light to the Planets, who at their best shine but with borrowed Rays. So does the Gospel impart Light to the Writings of the Apostles, all those Works are but as so many Comments upon it. But the Excellence of the Gospel will yet appear more conspicuous, if we draw a Parallel betwixt it and the Law.

1. The Author of the Law was *Moses*, mere Man; but the Author of the Gospel was Jesus Christ, both God and Man. The Law indeed was ordained by the Ministry of Angels in the Hand of a Mediator, who was *Moses*, the Mediator between God and the *Israelites*; but Jesus Christ, the Son of God, first promulg'd the Gospel with his own Mouth. The Apostle to the *Hebrews*, *Ch.* 1. *v.* 2, &c. sets out the Disparity between Christ and *Moses* very elegantly: "Christ being the Brightness of Glory, and the ingrav'd Form of God's Person, and sustaining all Things by his mighty Word, &c. sitteth at the right Hand of the Majesty on high; and is made so much more excellent than the Angels, in as much as he hath obtained a more excellent Name than they: For unto



“ which of the Angels said he at any time, Thou art  
 “ my Son, this Day have I begotten thee ?” And to  
 shew how much inferior *Moses* was to Christ, *Ch.* 3.  
*v.* 3. “ He is counted worthy of greater Glory than  
 “ *Moses*, as the Builder of a House is more honoured  
 “ than the House.” And *v.* 5, 6. “ *Moses* truly was  
 “ faithful in all his House as a Servant, for a Witness of  
 “ those Things which should be done hereafter; but  
 “ Christ is as the Son of God in his own House.” The  
 Angels indeed, as ministring Spirits, were the first  
 Publishers of the Gospel, as in the Messages of *Gabri-*  
*el* the Archangel to the Virgin *Mary*, and to *Zachari-*  
*as* the Father of St. *John* Baptist; but Christ himself  
 was the Founder of it: Wherefore he clothed his Di-  
 vinity with our Flesh, through which he dictated to  
 us the Words of his Gospel. “ The Law, says St.  
 “ *John*, *Ch.* 1. *v.* 17. was given by *Moses*, but Grace  
 “ and Truth came by Jesus Christ.” So that all Au-  
 thorities both of the *Old* and *New Testament* do agree,  
 that Christ being the Author of the Gospel, it is justly  
 intituled his Gospel, and may not be improperly cal-  
 led, the Book, Philosophy, and Theology of Christ, in  
 which with his own Mouth he declared much more  
 noble and sublime Truths than *Moses* and the Prophets.  
 Wherefore when we read or hear the Holy Gospel, we  
 may be said to read or hear the very express Word of  
 the Son of God himself; which Thought, in the most  
 early Ages of Christianity, created such an Awe and  
 Reverence in all the Faithful, that when the Gospel  
 was read in the Church, the whole Congregation rose  
 up in a profound Respect to it.

But to carry the Parallel yet higher, and in conse-  
 quence of what hath been said, the Doctrine of the  
 Gospel far exceeds what we find in *Moses* and the Law.  
 The Law proposes one God to be believ'd and wor-  
 shipped by us; but the Gospel, one God in Essence,  
 and three in Person to be loved and adored: “ Go, says  
 “ our Lord, and teach all Nations, baptizing them in  
 “ the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
 “ *Mat.*

“*Mat. 28. 19.*” In the Law and the Prophets there is sometimes a Shadow of the Mystery of the Holy Trinity; from whence the famous *Egyptian* Theologist *Trismegistus* is thought by some to have extracted that Oracle of his, *A Unit begat a Unit*, &c. But he could not penetrate into the Truth of this Mystery. And in Imitation of him the *Platonists* contaminated this Mystery by an Error not unlike that of the *Arians* afterwards; for they, determining that there was one supreme God, did soon introduce other Gods, less and inferior to the supreme God. The Prophets obscurely and at a great distance foretold the Birth, Life, Passion and Ascension of Christ, the Mission of the Holy Ghost, the Recovery and Conversion of the *Gentiles*: But the Gospel positively and clearly lays down for Truth the Prescience, Providence, Predestination, Omnipotence, immense Charity, and other Attributes of God. “No Man hath seen God at any time, but the only begotten, who is in the Bosom of the Father, hath declared him,” saith St. *John, Ch. I. v. 18.* That is, Christ leaving his immortal State for a-while, condescended to the Condition of vile Mortality, that he might discover to us the Secrets of his Father, which were known to him only. Wherefore St. *Paul* in his Instructions to *Timothy, Epist. 1. c. 3. v. 16.* says, “Great is the Mystery of Godliness; God is manifested in the Flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of Angels, preached to the World, and received up into Glory.”

Moreover, the Law is as the Shadow; but the Gospel the Body, and very Truth it self. Thus the Acts of the Patriarchs, the Oracles and symbolical Visions of the Prophets, the Sacrifices, Ceremonies and Decrees of the Law, which received their Sanctions by the Blood of Animals, were Types and Preludes which enigmatically represented Christ to the People: But the Gospel manifestly and clearly exhibits to us Christ, his Mysteries and Sacraments. This St. *Paul, 2 Cor. 3. 18.* positively affirms, “We behold the Glory of the  
“ Lord

“ Lord with an open Face, and are changed into the  
 “ same Image, from Glory to Glory, as by the Spirit  
 “ of the Lord.” And in confirmation of this, the same  
 Apostle begins his Epistle to the *Romans* thus: “ *Paul*  
 “ a Servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an Apostle, set  
 “ apart to preach the Gospel of God, which he had  
 “ promised before by his Prophets in the Holy Scrip-  
 “ tures concerning his Son, &c.”

2. The Law was a Messenger of Fear and Terror; but the Gospel of Love and Peace. The one threatening Death to the Transgressors, the other Rewards to Believers. By the Law all were Servants, but by the Gospel all are Freemen and Children. So St. *Paul*, 2 *Cor.* 3. 6. “ God hath made us able Ministers of the  
 “ *New Testament*, not of the Letter, but of the Spirit;  
 “ for the Letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth Life.  
 “ For if the Ministration of Death, (that is, the Law  
 “ threatening Death) written with Letters, and in  
 “ Stones, was glorious, &c. how shall not the Mi-  
 “ nistration of the Spirit be more glorious?” From  
 whence we may justly define the Gospel a Law of Li-  
 berty, a Law of the Spirit, a Law of Beneficence and  
 Charity: For Christ went about doing Good, and  
 healing all that were oppressed of the Devil, for God  
 was with him. *Acts* 10. 38.

3. The Promises of the Law were temporary and momentaneous, subject to Vicissitude and Failing; but the Gospel-Promises are celestial and eternal. In the Law were promised the good Things of the Earth, as Plenty of Oil, Wine, Honey, Cattle, &c. but in the Gospel the Vision and Injoyment of God, and everlasting Happiness. *Joshua* conducted the *Israelites* to a Land flowing with Milk and Honey, but it was to the Land of the Dying; Christ hath brought us into the Land of the Living, a Land shining with and abounding in Grace and Glory. Besides, the Law was more burdensome than the Gospel in respect of its threefold Division

Division into Moral, Ceremonial, and Judicial, many Parts of which decreed Death to the Transgressors of them : But the Obligations the Gospel laid upon the Professors of it were easy and pleasant : “ Come to me, “ says our blessed Saviour, all you that are weary and “ laden, and I will give you Rest ; take my Yoke on “ you, and learn of me, for I am meek and humble in “ Heart ; for my Yoke is easy, and my Burden is light. “ *Mat. 11. 28, 29, 30, &c.*”

4. The Law was an Introduction to Christ and the Gospel ; but the Gospel is the Boundary and End of the Law ; as *St. Paul* tells us, *Rom. 10. 4.* “ Christ is “ the End of the Law for Righteousness, to every one “ that believeth.” Wherefore *St. Bernard* very aptly calls Christ the Fruit of the Promises of the Law, alluding to the seminal Virtue of Plants ; for Fruit, says he, *Hom. 1.* is the End to which Seeds tend, and in which they terminate.

5. But the Precellence of the Gospel will yet appear much greater, if we consider the Imperfection of the Law, which was limited to the *Jews* only ; but the Gospel diffusive over all the World, as *Isaiah* affirms, *Ch. 49. v. 6.* “ Behold I have given thee for “ a Light to the *Gentiles*, that thou mayst be my Salvation to the End of the World.” The Law was likewise imperfect in respect of its Duration ; for it was only temporary, being to continue no longer than the Coming of the Gospel, at which time it was to cease, which the Apostle to the *Hebrews*, *Ch. 7. v. 18, &c.* expressly affirms, “ The Commandment that went before is nulled, because of its Weakness and Unprofitableness ; for the Law made nothing perfect, but “ the bringing in of a better Hope, by which we draw “ near unto God, &c. but this is made with an Oath “ by him that said, Thou art a Priest for ever after the “ Order of *Melchisedec*.” Indeed, if we consider the whole Texture and Composing of the Gospel, we shall find



find it neatly contriv'd, and exactly adapted to all Ages and Sexes, to all Degrees and Conditions, and may justly be called an universal Library of Wisdom and Knowledge, wherein every one may see their Duty, and learn to put it in practice. And truly, if we examine our Saviour's Conduct whilst on Earth, we shall plainly see his whole Life was one continued Series of Moral Discipline; and that what he taught to others, himself practised, enforcing his Precepts by his own Example. Whilst the World greedily gaped after the pernicious Bait of Wealth, he studiously affected Poverty. Whilst others ambitiously aspired to Honour and Empire, he declined a Kingdom. Impatient Man could brook no Affront, but he sustained the vilest Reproach. Corporal Pains were terrible to Humane Nature, yet he bore Whipping and Scourging. Nothing so shocking to poor Mortality as the bare Apprehension of its Dissolution, yet he submitted to the most ignominious Death, that of the Cross.

But besides the Imperfections of the Law already mention'd, St. Paul in his Epistle to the *Galatians*, Ch. 4. v. 3, &c. shews us further, "That when we were Children, we were under the Elements of the World; but when the Fulness of Time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a Woman, and under the Law, that he might redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the Adoption of Sons." And St. Cyril, l. 9. in *Joan.* says, "It was necessary that Moses should instruct Israel as a Child in their State of ignorant Infancy; but by Christ, who is the sacred Repository of Wisdom, we arrive at the most true and consummate Knowledge."

But there is nothing so much discovers the Imperfections and Deficiencies of the Law, as the Holy Jesus himself does in that admirable Parallel between the *Old Testament* and the *New*, Mat. 5. 21, &c. to the End: Where he sets both in a true Light, shewing the Necessity of reforming and improving some Decrees of the Law, and instituting a better and more useful

useful System of Virtue and Piety. The Precepts of the Law are positive, yet conformable to Nature; but the Commands of the Gospel transcend Nature, and are far more instructing, as furnishing us with wholesome Counsel and prudent Admonitions: "A new Commandment I give unto you, says our Blessed Saviour, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, *John* 13. 34." And if we address our selves as we ought to the Practice of that System of Evangelical Theology in the fifth Chapter of *St. Matthew*, we may from thence draw such demonstrable Inferences as will direct us in the Performance of our Duty, and crown our Obedience with Rewards. Thus from the Beatitudes in the Beginning of this Chapter we are assur'd from our blessed Lord's own Mouth, That if we are poor in Spirit, we shall gain the Kingdom of Heaven; if we mourn here, we shall be comforted; if we are meek, we shall possess the Earth; if we hunger and thirst after Righteousness, we shall be satisfied; if we are merciful, we shall receive Mercy: And so of the rest. For this Reason *St. Augustin*, in *Serm.* 112. says, "The Happiness of this Life consists in the Holy Gospel, and the rest of the sacred Records, without which we cannot come to the Knowledge of God." Certainly all true Knowledge, Virtue, and Perfection, that a Christian can desire or attain to, are contain'd within those Pages; in which Christ teaches us that Righteousness and Holiness consist in the inward Purity and Integrity of Mind, not in the outward Shew of Works; in a Conscience void of Offence, not in the pompous Applause of Men; in Humility, not in Ostentation; in Contempt, not Pursuit of Honour. He teaches us not to resist the Evil-one, but to love our Enemies as well as our Friends. And what *Socrates*, what *Aristotle*, what *Plato*, ever taught or understood these Lessons? The best of them were but Men, and sometimes insnared with the Follies they had condemn'd, and broke through those Rules they had prescribed to others.

6. The Law propos'd a naked Precept to the Understanding of Man; but the Gospel, at the same time that it instructs, inspires his Will with Grace to perform what is commanded him: For Christ, who in his Gospel speaks to us, does not express himself externally to our Ears, but internally to our Minds, where by his persuasive Spirit he inclines us to believe and practise what he teaches. "My Words, says he, are Spirit and Life," *John* 6. 63. And to this purpose the Apostle to the *Hebrews*, c. 10. v. 16. cites the Prophet *Jeremy*, c. 31. v. 33. "This is the Testament that I will make unto them after those Days, saith the Lord, I will put my Laws into their Hearts, and in their Minds I will write them." So that when we read the Gospel, Christ speaks to us; and when we pray, we talk to Christ.

After all these Excellencies of the Gospels, and the Preference deservedly given them to all other sacred Writings, there can be no Motive so pressing to incite us to the Study of them, as their own Worth; and next that, our Interest, which we cannot be said more really to pursue, than by a strict and religious Observance of the Duties contained in them. But it is time to draw to a Period. Having therefore gone through the *Antithesis* between the *Old Testament* and the *New*, we will conclude with the same between the Authors of them; in which we shall see, that there is as much Difference between the Authors as the Works.

*Moses* being the express Index and Type of Christ, is said to have enlighten'd the *Jews* under the Dispensation of the Old Law, as *Jesus Christ* did the *Christians* under the Gospel. *Moses* was Legislator of the *Pentateuch*, Christ of the Gospel. *Moses* had two Congresses with God; the first when he received the first Tables from God in Mount *Sinai*, the other when he received the second Tables, at which time he return'd with his Face shining. So was Christ honour'd with the same Testimony by his Father; first at his Baptism, when

when the Holy Ghost descended upon him, and a Voice was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son." The second was at his Transfiguration on Mount *Tabor*, when *Moses* and *Elias* (that is, the Law and the Prophets) testified of him. *Moses* did great Wonders in the Land of *Egypt*; but Christ wrought greater, and more Miracles in *Judea*. *Moses* spoke to God in a Cloud, and saw him behind; but Christ had seen him Face to Face. God told *Moses*, he had found Favour in his Sight; but to Christ he said, "Thou art my Son."

But to persue this *Antithesis* more regularly, we will follow *Eusebius's* Method; who, *l. 3. de Demonstr. Evangel.* begins thus:

*Moses* was Legislator of the *Jewish* Nation; Christ of the whole World.

*Moses* purged the *Israelites* from their Idolatry; Christ where-ever he came did so.

*Moses* by Signs and Wonders gave the Law; Christ confirm'd the Gospel with greater.

*Moses* deliver'd only his own People from Bondage; but Christ set the whole World at liberty.

*Moses* promised to the *Israelites* a Land flowing with Milk and Honey; Christ provided a Kingdom abounding with eternal Plenty.

*Moses*, when but a new-born Infant, was design'd to be murder'd by *Pharaoh*, who had condemn'd all the male Children of the *Jews*; but Christ, whilst an Infant, and adored by the Wisemen, was forced to fly into *Egypt* from the Cruelty of *Herod*, who intended to have kill'd all the male Children that were not above two Years old.

*Moses* in his Youth was well skill'd in all manner of Learning in use among the *Egyptians*; Christ at twelve Years of Age was found in the Temple disputing with the Learned, who were surprized at his great Knowledge.

*Moses* fasted forty Days in the Company of God in the Mount; Christ was in the Wilderness forty Days without



out eating or drinking, in divine Contemplation of God.

*Moses* in the Defart miraculously fed the People with Manna and Quails; Christ more effectually satisfied five thousand hungry Souls with five Loaves.

*Moses* pass'd thro the Waters of the *Red Sea* unhurt; but Christ walked upon the Waters of the Sea.

*Moses* by holding out his Rod divided the Sea; Christ with a Word rebuked the Sea, and presently produced a Calm.

The *Israelites* by reason of the dazzling Lustre of *Moses's* Face could not look upon it; Christ's Disciples were so terrified at the Magnificence of his Transfiguration, that they fell on their Faces.

*Moses* restored leprous *Miriam* to her former State of Health; but Christ out of his Mercy absolved penitent *Magdalen* from all her Sins.

*Moses* chose out twelve Spies to view and observe the promis'd Land; Christ chose twelve Disciples.

*Moses* chose seventy Elders to assist in the Administration; Christ commission'd seventy Disciples to preach the Gospel.

Of *Moses* it is said, That no Man to this present Time knows where his Sepulchre is; of Christ the Angels bore witness, "Ye seek Jesus that was crucified; he is risen, he is not here."



THE  
PROEM  
TO THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Four <sup>(a)</sup> Gospels.

**I**T will not be improper to premise some Account of the Writers of this History; which, though written by four several Persons, and at four different Times and Places, carrying so exact an Harmony throughout the whole Narration, plainly evinces that none but Men inspir'd with the Holy Ghost could so punctually agree in their Writings. We will begin with *St. Matthew*, who is first in Order.

(a) *Gospels*. Gospel is a Saxon Word; *Gos* with them signifying Good as well as God, and *Spel* signifies a Word: So that the Word agrees exactly with the Greek Word *Euangelion*, which signifies good News or good Ti-

dings. In this Place it signifies that Blessed Story of the Birth, Life, Actions, Precepts and Promises, Death and Resurrection of Christ, on which, of all the Stories in the World, we Christians ought to look with Joy.

St. *Matthew*, called also *Levi*, was born at *Nazareth*, a City in the Tribe of *Zebulun*. He was the Son of *Alpheus* and *Mary*, Sister or Kinswoman to the Blessed Virgin, both originally descended of the Tribe of *Issachar*. His Trade, or Way of Life, was that of a Publican, or Toll-gatherer, to the *Romans*, an Office of bad Report among the *Jews*, though among the *Romans* it was accounted a Place of Power and Credit, not ordinarily conferr'd upon any but *Roman Knights*. 'This Office was rendered very odious to the *Jews*, by the Covetousness and Extortion of the Collectors, who having farm'd the Customs of the *Romans*, they must gripe and scrape, by all Methods of Extortion, to pay their Rent, and gain some Advantage to themselves: Of which, doubtless, *Zacheus*, the Chief of these Farmers, was sensible, when, after his Conversion, he offer'd a four-fold Restitution to any Man, from whom he had taken any Thing by Fraud or evil Arts.

Of this Trade and Office was St. *Matthew*, which, it seems, more particularly consisted in gathering the Customs of Commodities that came by the Sea of *Galilee*, and the Tribute which Passengers were wont to pay that went by Water. For this Purpose they kept their Office, or Custom-house, by the Sea-side, that they might be always near at hand. And here it was, as St. *Mark* intimates, that *Matthew* had his Toll-Booth, where he sat at the Receipt of Custom, when our Lord espied him, and called him to follow him. The Man was rich, had a wealthy and gainful Trade, wise and prudent; and understood, no doubt, what it would cost him to comply with this new Employment, that he must exchange Wealth for Poverty, a Custom-House for a Prison, gainful Masters for a naked and despised Saviour. But he over-looked these Considerations, left all his Interests and Relations, to become Christ's Disciple, to imbrace a more spiritual Way of Traffick and Commerce.

After his Election to the Apostolate, he continued with the rest till our Lord's Ascension; and then, for the

## The P R O E M.

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the first eight Years at least, preached in and about *Judea*. Little Certainty can be had what Travels he underwent, for the Advancement of the Christian Faith; so irrecoverably is Truth lost in a Crowd of Legendary Stories. *Æthiopia* is generally assigned as the Province of his Apostolical Ministry; where, it is most probable, that he suffered Martyrdom in a City called *Naddaber*, but by what Kind of Death is uncertain.

St. *Matthew* wrote his Gospel at the Intreaty of the *Jewish* Converts, and Command of the Apostles, while he was yet in *Palestine*, about eight Years after the Death of Christ: Which, notwithstanding the Opinion of *Nicephorus*, *Irenæus*, &c. to the contrary, carries a great Force of Probability still, from its being written before the Dispersion of the Apostles; for St. *Bartholomew* took it with him when he travell'd into *India*, where it was afterwards found by *Pantæus*, amongst some that yet retained the Knowledge of Christ. As to the Language, he undoubtedly wrote it in *Hebrew*, as primarily designing it for the Use of his Countrymen. It was very likely soon after translated into *Greek*, though by whom not certainly known; some saying St. *John*, others St. *James* the Less, translated it. But it matters not much by which of them it was done, since the Apostles approv'd the Version, and that the Church has ever receiv'd the *Greek* Copy for authentick.

Though the Name of St. *Mark* carries something of *Roman* in it, which upon some Change or Accident of his Life he might probably assume, yet he was certainly born of *Jewish* Parents, originally descended of the Tribe of *Levi*, and the Line of the Priesthood. By the Ancients he was generally supposed to have been one of the Seventy Disciples. He was converted by some of the Apostles, and probably by St. *Peter*, whose constant Attendant he was in his Travels, supplying the Place of an *Amanuensis* and an Interpreter: For though the Apostles were divinely inspir'd, and



among other miraculous Powers, had the Gift of Languages conferred upon them, yet was the Interpretation of Tongues a Gift more peculiar to some than others. This might probably be St. *Mark's* Talent, in expounding St. *Peter's* Discourses, either by Word or Writing, to those who understood not the Language wherein they were delivered.

He accompanied St. *Peter* in his Apostolical Progress, preached the Gospel in *Italy*, and at *Rome*; and was by St. *Peter* sent into *Egypt* to plant Christianity in those Parts, fixing his Residence at *Alexandria*, and the Places thereabouts. Nor did he confine his Preaching to *Alexandria*, and the Oriental Parts of *Egypt*, but removed Westward to the Parts of *Libya*, going through the Countries of *Marmarica*, *Pentapolis*, and others thereabouts; where though the People were both barbarous in their Manners, and idolatrous in their Worship, yet by his Preaching and Miracles he made Way for the Entertainment of the Gospel; and left them not till he had not only gained them to, but confirmed them in the Profession of it.

Returning to *Alexandria* he preached freely, and ordered and disposed the Affairs of the Church, and wisely provided for the Succession, by constituting Governours and Pastors in it. But the restless Enemy of the Souls of Men would not long suffer him to be quiet: It was the Time of *Easter*, when the great Solemnities of *Serapis* happen'd to be celebrated; at which Festival the Minds of the People being excited to a passionate Vindication of the Honour of their Idol, broke in upon St. *Mark*, then engaged in the solemn Celebration of Divine Worship, and binding his Feet with Cords, dragged him through the Streets and most cragged Places, to a Precipice near the Sea; and for that Night thrust him into Prison, where his Soul was by a Divine Vision encouraged under the Ruins of his shatter'd Body. Early the next Morning the Tragedy began again, they dragging him about in the same Manner, till his Flesh being raked off, and his Veins emptied

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emptied of Blood, his Spirits failed, and he expired. As to his Person, he was of a middle Size, his Nose long, his Eye-Brows turning back, his Eyes graceful and amiable, his Head bald, his Beard long and grey, his Gate quick, and the Constitution of his Body strong and healthful. His Gospel, the only Book he left behind him, was written at the Intreaty of the Converts at *Rome*, who not being content with hearing *Peter* preach, pressed *St. Mark*, his Disciple, that he would commit to Writing an Historical Account of what he had delivered to them; which he performed with no less Faithfulness than Brevity: all which *St. Peter* perused, ratified with his Authority, and commanded to be publickly read in their Religious Assemblies. Some Dispute has been made in what Language this Gospel was written, whether in *Latin* or *Greek*. The Advocates of the *Romish* Church plead, that it's very congruous and suitable that it should at first be assigned to Writing in that Language, being principally designed for the Use of Christians at *Rome*. An Objection which easily vanishes, if we consider, that as the Convert *Jews* there understood very little *Latin*, so there were very few *Romans* that did not understand *Greek*, which, as the Writers of that Age make appear, was the genteel and fashionable Language of those Times. The Original *Greek* Copy, written with *St. Mark's* own Hand, is said to be extant at *Venice* at this Day; written, as they tell us, by him at *Aquileia*, and thence after many Centuries of Years translated to *Venice*, where it is still preserved; though the Letters are so worn out with Length of Time, that they are not capable of being read. This Story indeed is not easily to be disproved, nor is it reasonable to be readily credited, and therefore I think it not worth insisting on.

*Antioch* was the Birth-place of *St. Luke*, a City eminent above all others in *Syria*, for its pleasant Situation, fertile Soil, Riches of Trade, Wisdom and Learning of its great Men, the Civility and Politeness of

its Inhabitants ; and yet above all these, renowned for this one peculiar Honour, that here it was that the Disciples were first call'd Christians. Being an University well stock'd with learned Professors of all Arts and Sciences, *St. Luke* could not miss of a liberal and ingenuous Education, his natural Parts meeting with the Advantage of great Improvements. Nor did he only study at *Antioch*, but in all the Schools of *Greece* and *Egypt*, whereby he became accomplished in all Parts of Learning. He applied himself particularly to the Study of Physick, for which the *Greek* Academies were most famous. Besides his Abilities in Physick, he is said to have been very skilful in Painting ; though *Gretser* the Jesuit's Tradition does not at all prove him to be the Author of some Pieces which are said to be his. As to his understanding this Art, nothing makes more for it than an ancient Inscription found in a Vault near the Church of *St. Mary*, in the *Via lata* at *Rome*, supposed to have been the Place where *St. Paul* dwelt, wherein mention is made of a Picture of the Blessed Virgin, *UNA EX SEPTEM AB LUCA DEPICTIS* ; being one of the seven painted by *St. Luke*.

It is most probable that he was converted by *St. Paul*, during his Abode at *Antioch* ; after which he became his inseparable Companion and Fellow-Labourer in the Ministry of the Gospel, especially after his going into *Macedonia*, from which Time in recording the History of *St. Paul's* Travels he always speaks of himself in his own Person, *Acts* 16. 10. He follow'd him in all his Dangers, was with him at several Arraignments at *Jerusalem*, accompanied him in his desperate Voyage to *Rome*, where he still attended on him to serve his Necessities, and supply those ministerial Offices which the Apostle's Confinement would not suffer him to undergo, and especially in carrying Messages to the Churches wherein he had planted Christianity. This infinitely indear'd him to *St. Paul*, who own'd him for his Fellow-Labourer, called him  
the

the *Beloved Physician*, and the *Brother whose Praise is in the Gospel*, throughout all the Churches.

The Ancients are not very well agreed either about the Time or Manner of his Death: But *Nazianzen* and others expressly assert his Martyrdom, of which *Ncephorus* gives this particular Account; That coming into *Greece* he successfully preached, and baptized many Converts into the Christian Faith, till a Party of Infidels making Head against him, drew him to Execution, and for want of a Cross whereon to dispatch him presently, hang'd him upon an Olive-Tree, in the Eightieth Year of his Age. His Body afterwards, by the Command of *Constantine*, or his Son *Constantius*, was solemnly removed to *Constantinople*, and buried in the great Church built to the Memory of the Apostles.

As to the Books which *St. Luke* wrote for the Use of the Church, they are two; his *Gospel*, and *History of the Apostles Acts*, both which he dedicated to *Theophilus*. The Ancients differ very much about this *Theophilus*, some supposing it to be a feigned Name, denoting no more than a *Lover of God*, a Title common to every good Christian; while others, with better Reason, conclude it the proper Name of a particular Person, especially since the Style of *Most Excellent* is attributed to him, the usual Form of Address to Princes and great Men: But even they that agree in this, cannot determine positively who he was. It is most probable he was some Magistrate, whom *St. Luke* had converted and baptized, to whom he now dedicated these Books, not only as a Testimony of honourable Respect, but as a Means of giving him farther Certainty and Assurance of those Things wherein he had been instructed by him. For this *Gospel*, *St. Jerom* supposes it to have been written in *Achaia*, during his Travels with *St. Paul* in those Parts, of whose Help he is generally said to have made use in the Composing it. But whatever Assistance *St. Paul* might contribute towards it, we are sure this Evangelist him-



self tells us, That he derived his Intelligence from those who from the Beginning had been Eye-Witnesses and Ministers of the Word, Luke 1. 2. Nor does it in the least detract from the Authority of his Relations, that he himself was not present at the doing of them; for if we consider who they were from whom he derived his Accounts of them, he had a Stock both of Credit and Intelligence sufficiently authentick to proceed upon, delivering nothing in his whole History, but what he had immediately received from Persons present at, and concerned in the Things which he has left upon Record.

As to the *History of the Apostolick Acts*, the Reader is desired to consult the *Proem* before them in their proper Place.

St. *John*, though the last in Order, yet first in Quality, of the Evangelists, was by Birth a *Galilean*, the Son of *Zebedee* and *Salome*, younger Brother to St. *James*, with whom he was brought up in the Trade of Fishing. The Nobility of his Family, which some attribute to him, seems not reconcilable with the Meanness of his Father's Trade, and the Privacy of his Fortunes. As to his Acquaintance with the High-Priest, *Nicephorus*'s Relation seems most probable; That he had sold his Estate left by his Father in *Galilee* to *Annas* the High-Priest, and therewith purchased a fair House at *Jerusalem*, about Mount *Sion*, whence he became acquainted with him. Before his coming to Christ, he seems for some Time to have been a Disciple to *John* the Baptist, being probably that other Disciple that was with *Andrew*, when they left the Baptist to follow our Saviour; so particularly does he relate all Circumstances of that Transaction, though modestly, as in other Parts of his Gospel, concealing his own Name. He was at the same Time with his Brother called by our Lord both to the Discipleship and Apostolate; by much the youngest of all the Apostles, which his great Age seems to evince, living near Seventy Years after our Saviour's Suffering.

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The sacred Story says little more of him than what is recorded of him in Conjunction with his Brother *James*. He was peculiarly dear to his Lord and Master, being treated by him with more Familiarity and Freedom than the rest. And indeed he was not only one of the three, to whom our Saviour communicated the private Passages of his Life, but had some Instances of a more particular Kindness and Favour conferr'd upon him : Witness his lying in our Lord's Bosom at the Paschal Supper ; it being the Custom of those Times to lie along at Meals upon Couches, so that the second lay with his Head in the Bosom of him that was before him ; which Honour was not given to any of the aged, but reserved for this young Apostle. And besides other Notes of Distinction in his Life-time, our Blessed Lord, by his last Will and Testament on the Cross, made him Guardian of his own Mother, the Blessed Virgin, bequeathing her to his Care, *John* 19. 26, 27.

Upon the Division of Provinces, which the Apostles made among themselves, *Asia* fell to St. *John's* Share ; though it is not probable that he did presently enter upon his Charge, but that he dwelt still in his own House at *Jerusalem*, at least till the Death of the Blessed Virgin, which was about fifteen Years after our Lord's Ascension. Some Time after her Death he took his Journey into *Asia*, and industriously applied himself to propagate Christianity, preaching where the Gospel had not yet taken Place, and confirming it where it was already planted ; St. *Paul* having before made several Journeys into, and resided in those Parts. Many Churches of Note and Eminency were of his Foundation, *Smyrna*, *Pergamus*, *Thyatira*, *Sardis*, *Philadelphia*, *Laodicea*, and others ; but his chief Place of Residence was *Ephesus*, where St. *Paul* had many Years before settled a Church, and constituted *Timothy* Bishop of it.

After several Years spent in this Employment, he was at length accus'd to *Domitian*, who had begun a Persecution

cution against the Christians, as an eminent Asserter of Atheism and Impiety, and a publick Subverter of the Religion of the Empire. By his Command the Proconsul of *Asia* sent him bound to *Rome*, where he was cast into a Caldron of Oil set on Fire: But Divine Providence preserved him from this seemingly unavoidable Destruction. The cruel Emperor not convinced or satisfied with this, orders him to be banish'd, and transported to *Patmos*, a disconsolate Island in the *Archipelago*, where he remained several Years, instructing the Inhabitants in the Faith of Christ.

*Domitian*, whose prodigious Wickedness had render'd him infamous and burdensome to the World, being taken out of the way, *Cocceius Nerva* succeeded to the Empire, a prudent Man, and of a more mild and sober Temper. He rescinded the odious Acts of his Predecessor, and by a publick Edict recall'd those whom the Fury of *Domitian* had banished. St. *John* taking the Advantage of this general Indulgence, left *Patmos*, and return'd to his ancient Charge in *Asia*, but chiefly fix'd his Seat at *Ephesus*, the Care and Presidency of which (*Timothy* their Bishop having been lately martyr'd by the People) he took upon him, and by the Assistance of seven Bishops he governed that large Diocese, erecting Oratories (not large Churches in the modern Notion) and ordering and disposing the Clergy as Circumstances then required. He lived till the Time of *Trajan*, about the Beginning of whose Reign he departed this Life, very aged, being in the ninety eighth or ninety ninth Year of his Life. There are many improbable Opinions and Conjectures about the Manner of his Death, most of which, relating to his dying a violent Death, are very frivolous and trifling: The most probable is, That he died a natural Death, in a good old Age.

He was indefatigable in the Execution of his Charge, which he expressed in the mighty Care he shewed to the Souls of Men, unweariedly spending himself in the Service of the Gospel, travelling from East to West to instruct

instruct the World in the Principles of that Holy Religion which he was sent to propagate, shunning no Difficulties or Dangers to redeem Men's Minds from Error and Idolatry, and reduce them from a vicious Life. He was a vigilant and courageous Champion against Hereticks, countermining their Artifices, and antidoting all against their poisonous Errors.

The last Instance of this Apostle's Care for the Good of the Church, is the Writings which he left to Posterity; of which the first in Time, though placed last, is his Book of *Revelations*: Concerning which let the Reader be pleased to consult the *Proem* in their proper Place.

St. *John* wrote his Gospel after his Return from *Patmos* to *Ephesus*, at the Intreaty and Solicitation of the *Asian* Bishops, and Ambassadors from several Churches. In order to which he caused them to proclaim a Fast, to seek the Blessing of Heaven on so great and solemn an Undertaking; which being done he set about it. Two Things chiefly contributed to the writing of it; the one to obviate the Heresies of those Times, especially of *Ebion* and *Cerinthus*, who denied Christ's Divinity; the other, that he might supply those Passages of the Evangelical History which the rest of the sacred Writers had omitted. Besides these he wrote three Epistles; the first of which is Catholick, or general, calculated for all Times and Places, containing most excellent Rules for the Conduct of Christian Life, pressing to Holiness and Purity of Manners, and arming Men against the Insinuations of Seducers, especially the *Gnosticks*, to whom St. *John* had a particular Respect in this Epistle. It was universally received, and never questioned by any. The other two Epistles are but short, and directed to particular Persons; the one a Lady of honourable Quality; the other the charitable and hospitable *Gaius*, the kind Friend and courteous Entertainer of indigent Christians. These Epistles were not of old admitted into the Canon, nor are owned by the Church in *Syria* to this Day, being by  
many



many ascribed to the younger *John*, Disciple to our Apostle. But there is no just Cause to question who was the Author, since both the Doctrine, Phrase, and Design of them do sufficiently challenge our Apostle for the Author of them.

St. *John* wrote his Works in *Greek*: But his Gospel was afterwards translated into *Hebrew*, and kept by the *Jews* among their secret Archives and Records in their Treasury at *Tiberias*, where a Copy of it was found by one *Joseph* a *Jew*, afterwards converted, and whom *Constantine* the Great advanced to the Honour of a Count of the Empire; who breaking open the Treasury, tho he missed of Money, found Books beyond all Treasure, St. *Matthew's* and St. *John's* Gospels, and the Acts of the Apostles in *Hebrew*, the reading of which greatly contributed to his Conversion.

Thus much of each Evangelist in particular: That which is generally observable of the Writings of these four excellent Persons is this; That the three first of them wrote the whole Story from the Birth of Christ, till after the Resurrection; but two of them more largely, St. *Matthew* and St. *Luke*; the third (St. *Mark*) more succinctly setting down the Series of the Actions rather than the Sermons and Passages delivered by him. And though none of them agree throughout in observing the Order and Succession of Things which they relate, yet two of them do agree much more constantly than the third with either of them, viz. St. *Matthew* an Apostle and Eye-Witness, and St. *Mark* from St. *Peter*, who also was an Apostle and Eye-Witness: But the third, St. *Luke*, who wrote his Story from Collections that he had from others, and compiled it himself, hath not so exactly observed the Order wherein the Things were done, but only set down the Things themselves. And though he sometimes varied from the others in some Words or Circumstances, (as when St. *Matthew* and St. *Mark* say it was a *Maid* that spake to St. *Peter*, he reads, *another Man*, and the like) they are so inconsiderable, and of so little Importance to the main Mat-

ters of Faith, and Doctrines of the Gospel, that they are rather Arguments to demonstrate that these Writings were not contrived by any Compact or Agreement of one with another, but each of them a-part, without consulting or knowing what the other had done ; which is a Circumstance that was necessary to make their Testimonies several, and so to give them the greater Authority from the Number of them. As to the fourth Evangelist, *St. John*, his Writings seem to have been designed to these two Ends: 1. To demonstrate and declare the Divinity and eternal Pre-existence of Christ, his Creation of the World, with other sublime and mysterious Things ; as the other three had set down his Humanity, and cleared the Matter of his Conception and Birth of the Blessed Virgin. 2. To add out of his own Knowledge some remarkable Things, (especially those which tended most to the Divinity of Christ) which had been omitted by the other three ; To which Purpose he saw it necessary to set down the Story of Christ's Passion and Resurrection as the others had done, that so he might affix those other Circumstances which he design'd to add to them.

There are some that find fault with his Style, as being often mix'd with Barbarisms, and Phrases used in an uncommon Sense, making his Writings less grateful to the Critical and Curious. But whatever there was wanting in the Politeness and Elegance of his Style, was abundantly made up in the Zeal of his Temper, and the Excellency and Sublimity of his Matter ; so that as *St. Basil* and *Epiphanius* assert of him, he spake and wrote like a Son of Thunder.



T H E  
H I S T O R Y  
O F T H E  
F O U R G O S P E L S.

V O L. III. B O O K I.

*Of the Birth and Infancy of  
(a) Jesus Christ.*



THE Time was now approaching, 'when the great Creator of the World intending to recover Mankind from their fallen State, in which the Sin of their first Parents in Paradise had involv'd them, resolv'd to perform the (b) Covenant he there made with them, by sending his Son to redeem them.

(a) *Jesus Christ.* *Jesus* was the proper Name of *the Word made Flesh*, and given by God himself, *Mat.* 1. 21. *Luke* 1. 31. & 2. 21. Not that it was a Name strange or unusual at that Time, but more emphatically given him as Saviour of the World; the Reason of which is by the heavenly Ambassador subjoyned in *Matthew* 1. 21. *For he shall save his People from their Sins.*

*Christ* is a Name of Dignity, signify-

ing his Office as *Messiah*, or Anointed; for under the old Law, Kings, Priests, and Prophets, were anointed, *1 Sam.* 10. 1. *1 Kings* 1. 39. *Levit.* 8. 12. *1 Kings* 19. 16. And that this was a Name peculiar to the expected *Messiah* of the *Jews*, is evident from the High-Priest's calling him *Kal' i'xoxlw*, *That Christ*, *Mat.* 26. 63. *Mark* 14. 61. *Luke* 22. 67.

(b) See *Genesis* 3. 15.

In Pursuance therefore of this, and for the Completion of many other Promises, which he by his Holy Prophets from the Beginning had made them, he first sends his (c) Harbinger to prepare the Way before the Saviour of the World, who was now about to make his publick Entry into it.

And to make the Fulfilling of these Prophecies more wonderful, and becoming the Hand of an Almighty Power, the Conception and Birth of *John Baptist*, the Fore-runner of Christ, was introduced with a stupendous Miracle: God hereby not only denoting his Omnipotence, which is not always circumscrib'd within the scanty Bounds of Nature, but at the same Time exciting the Minds of Men to an Expectance of something extraordinary from such preternatural Means.

In the Reign of *Herod*, King of *Judea*, lived a certain Priest named *Zacharias*, and his Wife *Elizabeth*; both of the Tribe of *Levi*, but by a peculiar Descent; he being of the Lot of (d) *Abiha*, which was the eighth according to the Division of *David*, and she lineally descended from the Daughters of *Aaron*. Nor was their Character inferior to the Excellency of their Extraction, being (e) just before God, and unblameable in their Conversation. Yet hitherto God had blessed them with no Issue; and being both far advanced in Years, they had now no Reason to hope for, or expect any. But the Peculiarity of their Descent, and the Innocence of their Life, were sufficient to recommend them to the particular Care and Love of God, who contrary to all the seeming Improbabilities of Nature, had determin'd to make them Instruments of his Glory, by exercising on them his Omnipotence in an extraordinary Manner.

At the Time when *Zacharias* was to officiate in his Course, and to burn Incense in the Temple, the Angel

(c) See *Isa.* 40. 3. *Mal.* 3. 1.

(d) 1 *Chron.* 24. 10.

(e) *Luke* 1. 6.

*Gabriel*



*Gabriel* appear'd to him, standing on the (f) Right-side of the Altar. The unusualness of the Sight struck *Zacharias* with Surprise and Fear, which the Angel soon dispell'd, by assuring him of the Favour he and his Wife had found with God; who notwithstanding their great Age and her Sterility, intended to bless them with a Son, whose Birth should be the Occasion of great Joy not only to them but many others; foretelling at the same Time the Dignity of his Office, That being from his Birth inspir'd with the Holy Ghost, he should go before the Lord in the Spirit and Power of *Elias*, to turn the Hearts of the Children of *Israel*, and make ready a People prepared for the Lord. *Zacharias*, by reason of his own and his Wife's great Age, questions the Truth of the Divine Message: But the Angel, to confirm the Authority of his Embassy, tells the diffident Priest that he should be dumb till these Things were fulfilled; which immediately prov'd true, for when he came out of the Temple he was speechless, and continued so till the Time of his Wife's Delivery.

*Zacharias's* Time of Waiting being expir'd, he returns Home, where soon after his Wife *Elizabeth* conceived, which for five Months she concealed, not that she doubted of the Promise God had made to her by the Angel, for she well knew her Husband's Incredulity was punish'd with Dumbness, but to avoid the (g) Rumours that her being with Child might occasion, whom the World, by reason of her great Age, might naturally suppose to be barren.

God having thus miraculously taken off from *Elizabeth* the Reproach of Barrenness in her Old-Age by

(f) *Right-side*, &c. This was by the Ancients look'd upon as an Omen of Good: From whence *Bede* gives this Reason of the Angel's appearing on the Right-side of the Altar, Because, says he, he foretold the Coming of the true Priest, &c. Which carries the greater Probability with it, in that we find in

*Mark* 16. 5. the Angels who appeared to the Women, and told them of the Resurrection of Christ, (which to them were glad Tidings) sat on the Right-side of the Sepulchre. See *Ezekiel* 10. 3.

(g) *Grot. Luc. Brug. Marlorat. &c.*

her Conception of the Baptist, the Birth of the *Messiah* is usher'd into the World by no less wonderful, but rather more extraordinary Means. For a Woman generally esteem'd barren, and in Years, to bear a Child was within the Verge of Possibility; sacred History affords Instances in the Birth of *Isaac* and *Sampson*: But that a Virgin, who had never known Man, should conceive and bear a Child, exceeded all natural Reason and Credibility, and could be nothing but the Product of divine Power. This the Almighty had (b) promised, and now most punctually performed; for within six Months after *Elizabeth* had conceived, the Angel *Gabriel*, who to her had been the happy Messenger of glad Tidings, is sent by God on the same Errand to a Virgin named *Mary*, a Cousin of *Elizabeth's* in *Nazareth*, a City of *Galilee*, who not long before was espoused to *Joseph*; and both of them were of the House of *David*. The Angel entring the House where she then was, (for as yet she was not brought home to her espoused Husband *Joseph*) salutes her with the Heavenly Benediction: (i) *Hail thou that art highly in Favour with God, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among Women.* The Strangeness of the Sight affected her with Amazement and Surprise; which *Gabriel* soon removes by assuring her of the Grace she had found with God, who had decreed her to be the Mother of the Saviour of the World.

The Holy Virgin, in confidence of her own Virtue, having hitherto lived in a strict State of Virginity, expostulates with the celestial Messenger the Possibility of the Cause of his Errand; which he makes clear to her, assuring her that the Holy Ghost by his Almighty Influence should cause her to conceive; and by her Cousin *Elizabeth's* miraculously being with Child in her Old-age, he convinces her of the Omnipotence of God, with whom (k) nothing was impossible. The Blessed

(b) *Isa.* 7. 14. (i) *Luke* 1. 28.

(k) *Nothing.* The Vulgar *Latin* translates it *Words*, because the *Greek* [Vol. 3.]

Term *Logos* does often signify so; but since it answers to the *Hebrew* Word *Debbar*, which is very equivocal, and signifies

Blessed Virgin humbly acquiesces to the Reasons of the Divine Visiter: Upon which he leaves her, and she with eager Haste repairs to *Hebron*, where her Cousin *Elizabeth* dwelt, not out of any Distrust of the Angel's Report, but that she might not neglect the Opportunity of increasing her Faith, which God had so miraculously offer'd, and the Angel had dictated to her. Being arrived at *Zacharias's* House, she had no sooner saluted *Elizabeth*, but the Babe sprang for Joy; not the Motion usual in Childrens quickening, for that Time was now past, *Elizabeth* being in the sixth Month of her Time, but a Motion preternatural, as adapt to such Divine Operations.

In this Visit and Salutation of the Virgin *Mary* to *Elizabeth*, we may see a most exact Harmony, and which can no where be found or expected, but in such prodigious Transactions. *Elizabeth* had no sooner received the Blessed Virgin's Compliment, but, being influenc'd by the Holy Ghost, in return accosts her with the very Words the Angel *Gabriel* had saluted her in, *Blessed art thou among Women*; and as if she had been acquainted with the whole Conversation between the Angel and her Virgin Cousin, she foresheweth her being with Child of the *Messiah*, and calls her the (1) Mother of her Lord.

This was a most complete and demonstrable Confirmation of all that the Angel had foretold her, and to the Knowledge of which *Elizabeth* could no way come but by Divine Inspiration: which so transports the Blessed Virgin, that in a heavenly Ecstasy she glorifies God, by recollecting his Mercies, and the Promises he had made his People *Israel*, and which by making her the blessed Instrument, he was now about to fulfil.

Having tarried about three Months with her Cousin, she returns Home; soon after which *Elizabeth*,

nishes sometimes a *Word*, sometimes a *Thing*, sometimes a *Reason*, &c. we must necessarily determine its Signification according to the Matter which is spoken of.

(1) Luke 1. 43.

ST LUKE CHAP. I.

2

Mary enters y<sup>e</sup> house of Zacharias and saluted Elizabeth.



ST LUKE 1 Verse 41. 18.

*And it came to pass that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb: etc.*





according to the Time foretold her, was delivered of a Son, whom on the eighth Day at his Circumcision, to the Amazement of their Friends and Kindred, the Father named *John*, though none of their Family bore that Name before. Hereupon good old *Zachary*, seeing the Finger of God so manifestly appear according to the Predictions relating to his Family, burst into a holy Rapture; the same Power that at first had miraculously tied up his Tongue, did now as wonderfully let it loose, to give Praise to the Almighty God that had wrought such Prodigies among them.

And now the Time was at hand, when the great Joy that the Birth of the Baptist had occasion'd should be augmented by the more miraculous Birth of the Saviour of Mankind, which was to be the perfect Completion of what the Angel *Gabriel* had promised to both their Mothers. The Holy Virgin therefore being returned from *Hebron* to *Nazareth*, *Joseph* prepares to consummate his Marriage with his espoused Wife; when to his great Amazement she was big with Child. Though the seeming Disappointment deeply affected him, yet being of a (m) gentle Disposition, he was unwilling to expose the Honour of the Family, which he mistakenly thought she had stain'd, or her to inevitable Death, according to the Sentence of the Law: And therefore the better to conceal the Disgrace of the Family, as he thought, he resolves to divorce her

(m) *Gentle or Merciful, &c.* This in our Translation is render'd *Just*, *Mat. 1. 19.* When we meet with equivocal Terms, we must take them in the Sense which comes nearest to the Design of the Subject that is treated of. This Rule has not been so strictly observed by our Translators as it ought, as in these Notes we shall frequently shew, particularly here, where the Versions express the Character that is given to *Joseph*, and other good Men, by the Word *Just*, *Mat. 1. 19. Acts 10. 22.* The Term in the Original has that Signification; but it is also certain, that the Words which signify *Just* and *Justice*

in the *Hebrew*, do likewise often signify *Merciful* and *Mercy*. The Design therefore of the Author who employs them, determines their Signification. It cannot then be said, that St. *Matthew* design'd to represent *Joseph* as a Man that observed the most exact Rules of Justice, since upon that Occasion, according to the Law, instead of putting the Blessed Virgin away, he should have made her a publick Example, and had her stoned to Death, *Deut. 22. 23.* The Word therefore should not have been render'd by that of *Just*, but by that of *Humane* or *Merciful*, as St. *Cyril* has remark'd.

privately. But while he labour'd under these anxious Deliberations, an Angel of God appeared to him in a Dream, and with this comfortable Message dispels his uneasy Cares: *Fear not, Joseph, thou Son of David, to take Mary thy Wife; for she is innocent, and that which she has conceived is of the Holy Ghost, by the Virtue and Power of the most High: And she shall bring forth a Son, whose Name by the heavenly Decree is to be called Jesus, who shall free Mankind from the Slavery of Sin and Death.* Joseph awaking, acknowledges the heavenly Vision; and in obedience to the Divine Command, takes the sacred Virgin home, with whom to outward Appearance he lived in Conjugal Love, though he knew her not (*n*) till she was delivered of her \* *First-born Son*; which soon after came to pass in as wonderful manner as had been predicted.

In

(*n*) *Till*, Mat. 1. 25. That is, he never knew her. The Word *till* implying as if he knew her after the Birth of Jesus, is of no Force to the contrary, as may appear in 1 Sam. 15. 35. where it is said, Samuel saw Saul no more until the Day of his Death, &c. that is, He never saw him more; the Word *till* having no Relation to the Time after, but before the Birth. This, it is likely, might occasion that Error of supposing James and Josias, and Simon and Jude, to be the Brethren of our Lord, born of Mary after the Birth of our Saviour; for it is plain they were his first Cousins. See Ezek. 44. v. 2.

\* The Word *First-born* is ambiguous: For, 1<sup>st</sup>, Sometimes it signifies one that is first-born, without respect to any following Children, as when Christ is called the *first-born* of Mary, in Mat. 1. 25. 2<sup>dly</sup>, Sometimes it signifies the eldest of two or more Brethren, as when the Scripture calls Eliab the *first-born* of Jesse, 1 Sam. 17. 13. 3<sup>dly</sup>, This Word is taken figuratively to signify those we love dearly, because Parents very often love their First-born best; as is plain in the Example of Isaac with respect to Esau, and of Joseph to Manasseh: And God

himself calls the *Israelites* the First-born in several Places of Scripture, which, to avoid Ambiguity, ought to be translated, That God did give to the *Israelites* Marks of the most tender Affection. 4<sup>thly</sup>, The *First-born* in Scripture-language signifies that which is most remarkable either for Greatness and Excellency, or Meanness and Want; as when God calls the *Ephraimites* his *First-born*, and when Moses prophesies of the Tribe of Joseph, That his Glory should be like the *Firstlings* of his Bulls; that is, equal in Strength to the strongest of those Animals. So God promises to David, or Solomon, to make him the *First-born* of the Kings of the Earth; whereas, in respect to their Birth, both were younger Brothers of their Family. On the contrary, when the Scripture speaks of extreme Misery or Want, it expresses them by the *First-born* of the Dead, and the *First-born* of the Poor; that is to say, Persons expos'd to the most cruel Death, and to the highest Poverty; as the Jews, who understand their own Language better than we, do acknowledge.

Therefore when this Expression is used in the *New Testament*, it ought to be reduced to its proper Signification,

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**ST LUKE CHAP. I.** 3.  
**The Circumcision of the son of Zacharias.**



**ST LUKE 1. Verse 63.** 20.  
*And he asked for a writing Table, &  
wrote, saying, his name is John. And  
they marvelled all.*





In the Time of *Augustus Caesar* a (o) Decree was issued forth to take an Account of the Estates of all Countries and People subject to the *Roman Empire*; and *Cyrenius* being Governor of *Syria*, (under which Province *Palestine* was) he was to (p) enroll that Part of the Empire. Whereupon every one repairs to his own City to have his Name taken, and his Goods rated, that the Emperor might know the Wealth of every Country, City, and Family. In this critical Juncture it was that *Mary*, the espoused Wife of *Joseph*, though very near her Time, was oblig'd to accompany her Husband *Joseph* to *Bethlehem* to be enrolled; where, by the singular Appointment of God, the sacred Virgin brought forth her First-born in a Stable, the vilest Part of the Inn, and most remote from Help at such a Time: which undoubtedly did very much enhance the Miracle, her Delivery being as wonderful as her (q) Conception; no natural Husband contributing to one, any more than a Midwife did to the other.

to remove its Ambiguity. This Method would have prevented many Errors. For Example: If instead of calling our Saviour the *First-born Son of Mary*, they had called him her Son, *St. Jerom* had not been so much put to it to answer *Helvidius*, who from this Phrase took occasion to maintain that the Virgin had other Children besides our Saviour; and *Helvidius* had had no Followers. If instead of calling our Saviour the *First-born of many Brethren*, *Rom. 8. 29.* the *First-born of all the Creatures*, *Col. 1. 15.* and the *First-born of God*, *Heb. 1. 6.* they had translated, That *he is the most August or most Glorious of many Brethren, the most Excellent or the most Favoured of all Creatures, the most dearly beloved Son of God*; *Arius* and his Followers had never imagin'd that Christ was the *First of all the Creatures*, and the Church had been free from all the Disorders into which it fell upon this Account. If when he is called in the Original the *First-begotten of the Dead*, *Rev. 1. 15.* they had render'd, that he is the *Sovereign or most Illustrious of*

*the Dead*, there would be no need of such long Commentaries upon this Expression, as the most learned Divines do acknowledge. See the Note above at the Letter (n).

(o) *Luke 2. 1.*

(p) *Enroll.* This was not an exacting of Tribute or Taxation, but a setting-down or enrolling every Person according to their Family and Estate: According to which the *Vulgar Latin* expresses *ἀπογραφὴ*, by *Proferi*, *Luke 1. 3.* *they went to tell what they were worth*, which was in order to be taxed.

(q) *Conception.* It was always the Opinion of the Church, (saith *Bishop Taylor*) from the Days of *Gregory Nazianzen*, and until now piously observed, That as there was no Sin in the Conception, so neither had the Virgin Pains in the Production: For to her alone the Punishment of Eve did not extend, *That in Sorrow she should bring forth.* And therefore where nothing of Sin was an Ingredient, there Misery could not co-habit.

Though the Birth of our Saviour, in all outward Appearance, was in the most mean and abject Manner, and seemingly unbecoming the Majesty of Heaven; yet there were several extraordinary Circumstances and Occurrences then attending it, which plainly bespoke him the Son of God. He was no sooner born but a Messenger from Heaven proclaimed it to the World, and in the Field of *Bethlehem* astonished and rejoiced the (r) Shepherds with the happy News of the Birth of (s) Christ the Lord, born in the City of *David*, directing them to the Place where he was laid; and immediately after the celestial Choir welcome him into the World with this harmonious Serenade, *Glory be to God on high, Peace on Earth, and Good-will towards Men.*

The Shepherds filled with Joy and Wonder at this strange and glorious Sight, hasten to *Bethlehem* to see the Truth of these Things; where they no sooner arrive but they see the Virgin-Mother, and *Joseph* the supposed Father, attending the God-like Babe in the Manger, whom in humble Reverence they adore, and in awful Silence admire the Goodness of God: and, when they had gratified their glad Eyes with these miraculous Transactions, joyfully disperse the News in most amazing Circumstances among their Neighbours, which alike affected all that heard them.

Seven Days being expired after the Birth of our Saviour, he is circumcised on the eighth Day, as the Law appointed, and named *Jesus*, which Name was foretold his Mother before he was conceived; and therefore it was not to be look'd upon as a Name given him by human Opinion or Intention, or the Will of his Parents, but by divine Authority, he being long before decreed to be the Saviour of the World, which his Name implies.

(r) *Shepherds.* The Angel's Moral in the Circumstance of his Address to the poor Shepherds of *Bethlehem* is, That none are fit to come to Christ but those who are poor in Spirit, Despisers of the World, and simple in their Hearts, without secular Design or

Craft; and therefore the Angel did not apply to *Herod*, nor to the Scribes and Pharisees, whose Ambition had Ends contrary to the Simplicity and Poverty of the Birth of *Jesus*,

(s) *Luke 2, 11, & 14.* See the Note above on the Word *Nothing*, Page 17.

Though

ST LUKE CHAP. II.  
Christ's Nativity.



ST LUKE 2. Verse 7. 21.

*She brought forth her first born Son, and  
wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid  
him in a manger; because there was no room*





Though the People in the Place of his Birth seem'd to take little Notice of him, and that hitherto none but poor Shepherds by the Revelation of Heaven had paid any Acknowledgment to him; yet to denote his high Birth, and to witness his Divinity, a (t) Star appeared in the *East*, which mov'd the Curiosity of three (v) wise Men to travel to *Jerusalem* to worship him. This soon alarms (w) *Herod*; whose Title hanging but loose about him, immediately affects him with Jealousy, and puts him upon the inquiring into the Matter. To be further satisfied in it, he calls a Synod of the Chief Priests and Scribes, and demands of them where Christ should be born; who tell him at *Bethlehem* in *Judea*, according to what the Prophet *Micah*, Ch. 5. v. 2. had foretold, *And thou Bethlehem,*

(t) *Star*. This Word signifies an extraordinary Star appearing in the Heaven, observed by the *Magi* to differ from the ordinary Stars, and some Way interpreted to them to be the Index or Finger to point out this miraculous Birth.

(v) *Wise Men*. The Greek Word *Magoi*, signifies not only those we commonly call Magicians, i. e. Sorcerers, but also Philosophers, Divines, &c. learned Men, Students of the liberal Sciences, especially of Astronomy, without any ill Character upon them. These were then famous among the *Persians*, and were then both their Kings and Priests, and so among other Nations also, but especially the *Eastern*. The Time of these Wise Mens coming is not distinctly known, but may from Circumstances be concluded not to be the twelfth Day from the Nativity; for St. *Matthew* 2. 13. says, That after the Wise Mens Departure the Angel appeared to *Joseph*, and dispatched them into *Egypt*, which could not be before *Mary's* Purification; for then St. *Luke* says, 2. 22. they went up to *Jerusalem*, which cannot be supposed after their going into *Egypt*, nor betwixt the Departure of the *Magi* and their going thither, for that had been to throw themselves into *Herod's* Hands at *Jerusalem*, which they were commanded to

avoid by going into *Egypt*. From *Jerusalem* therefore they return'd to *Bethlehem*, and dwelt there till the Coming and Departure of the *Magi*: And therefore the Tradition, which makes the *Epiphany* the twelfth Day from the Day of the Nativity, may mean it of that Time Twelve-month; according to which it is, that, upon exact enquiring the Time of the Star's appearing, *Herod*, *Mat.* 2. 16. appoints the killing of all the Children from two Years old, and under; which probably he would not have done, if they had told him that the Star appeared but few Days before.

(w) *Herod*. Having by Fraud usurped the Kingdom of *Judea*, he endeavours to maintain his ill-gotten Title by the Murder of the lawful Heirs. The first of whom was *Hircanus* the High-Priest. Secondly, *Aristobulus*, Nephew of *Hircanus*, and High-Priest. Thirdly, *Mariamne* his Wife, and Daughter of *Hircanus*. Fourthly, *Alexandra*, the Mother of *Mariamne*. Fifthly, *Alexander* and *Aristobulus*, his Sons by *Mariamne*. Sixthly, *Antipater*, his Son by another Wife. These were his wicked Reasons for murdering the Innocents, among whom he hop'd Christ would have fallen, who now seem'd his only surviving Competitor.

*which art Part of the Portion of Land assigned to the Tribe of Judah, though thou wert one of the least Cities of Judah, yet now art thou the most honourable ; for in thee shall be born a Ruler, who shall govern my People Israel.*

This was so far from giving *Herod* any Satisfaction, that it rather inflam'd and increas'd his Jealousy, which Fox-like he conceals; for calling for the Wise Men privately, he examines them strictly about the Appearance of the Star, and pretends to send them to *Bethlehem* in quest of the Child, that when they had discovered where he was, they should intimate the same to him, that he might come and pay Adoration to him. But God disappoints *Herod's* insidious Treachery. The Wise Men make to *Bethlehem*, the Star which they had before seen in the *East* being their Guide, which went before them till they came to the Place where the Son of God resided. Into whose Presence being introduced, they pay him the most solemn Adoration and Reverence, and present him with the richest Product of their Country, Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

The Wise Men having perform'd their congratulatory Embassy in this solemn Manner, prepare to return to *Jerusalem*, to acquaint *Herod* with the happy Discovery they had made: But God, whose infinite Wisdom and all-searching Eye foresaw the Wickedness and Insincerity of *Herod*, who had no other Design by sending these three Wise Men to find out the Babe but to destroy him, in a Vision admonishes them not to acquaint *Herod* with what they had seen, but to return home to their Country another Way.

After the Circumcision of the Holy Infant, the next Ceremonies to be performed, according to the Custom of the Law, were the Purification of the Virgin-Mother, and the Presentation of her First-born; which Solemnities were to be performed forty Days after the Nativity, publickly in the Temple, by reason of the Offering to be made there: which in pursuance of the Law is done, the Holy Virgin humbly submitting

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**ST MATTHEW CHAP. II.** <sup>5</sup>

Then Herod when he had privily call'd y<sup>e</sup> wise men



**ST MATTHEW 2. Verse 7. 8.** <sup>23</sup>

*Enquired of them diligently what time the  
star appeared. And he sent them to Bethle-  
hem, and said, go, and search diligently, etc.*



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ST MATTHEW CHAP. II. <sup>6</sup>  
The Wisemen are warn'd of GOD in a Dream.



ST MATTHEW 2. Verse 12. <sup>25</sup>

*And being warned of God in a dream that  
they should not return to Herod, they de-  
parted into their own country another way.*

ting to the Law, which injoin'd Women in general to purify themselves, though she had no need of it, her Blessed Son, who was Purity it self, having submitted to that of Circumcision. After so divine and miraculous a Birth, which render'd her most pure, she went to the Temple with the sacred Infant to present him to the Lord, who in a wonderful Manner still continues to evince to the World his sending his Son to redeem it: For in the great Concourse of People that attended the Ceremonies there appeared two Persons eminent for Piety and good Life, who, being urg'd by the divine Impulse of the Spirit, came to give illustrious Testimony of their Saviour. Old *Simeon*, a Man just before God, and who waited for the Consolation of *Israel*, having God's Promise that he should not depart this Life before he had seen the Lord's Anointed, when through the Light of his Faith he had discovered this God hid under the Meanness of human Infancy, and saw thus accomplish'd the Promise which God had made him, transported with an holy Joy, takes the Blessed Infant in his Arms, and in a heavenly Ecstasy sings his *Nunc dimittis*, praising God for the Completion of his Promises, in letting him live to see the Saviour of the World, before he quitted it. And whilst the Holy Virgin and the rest of this pious Assembly joyfully admired what this good old Man spake, an holy and reverend Widow, named *Anna*, came likewise into the Temple, and added her publick Praises and Acknowledgment to those which good old *Simeon* had already given our Saviour. Her exemplary Life gave Authority to what she said; for after seven Years Marriage she had past all the rest of her Life to her eighty fourth Year in Acts of Piety and Devotion, praying and fasting continually, and constantly frequenting the Temple at the accustomed Hours of performing those Duties. The Eminency of her Character made a deep Impression on all that heard her affirming this Holy Infant to be the *Messias*, sent into the World for the Redemption of *Israel*.

These



These Ceremonies thus perform'd in the Temple at *Jerusalem*, they return home to *Bethlehem*, where they dwelt till after the Coming and Departure of the wise men in all seeming Security, nursing the holy Babe, not in the least suspecting the wicked Designs or Attempts of any Enemy. But the Eye of Providence was more watchful: God, who knew the Insincerity of *Herod's* Heart, resolves to disappoint him, and sends an Angel to *Joseph* to warn him of the approaching Danger that threaten'd the blessed Innocent; tells him of *Herod's* intended Cruelty to destroy the Child, commands him to retire into *Egypt* with him and his Mother, and to remain there till he should direct him further. *Joseph*, who before this had been acquainted with the Divine Visitation, disputes not the Celestial Message, but in a dutiful Obedience to God, and Fear for his sacred Charge, immediately prepares for their Escape; and taking the Advantage of the Night to prevent Discovery, travels to *Egypt*, where these Holy Pilgrims remain secure under the Protection of Heaven.

*Herod* having long and impatiently expected the Return of the Wise Men, at last finds himself deluded by them: To revenge which Disappointment he impiously resolves to gratify and secure himself another Way, intending such a Scene of Blood as he vainly thought Providence should not be able to prevent, but inevitably determine this young King's Reign, whom his Jealousy suggested was come to supplant him in his ill-gotten Dominion. No less than a general (x) Massacre of all the Male Children in *Bethlehem*, and the Country around to two Years old, will glut this Monster's Cruelty, thinking it impossible in so universal a Slaughter that any could escape his Vulture-Claws. Thus he resolv'd, but Heaven had otherwise

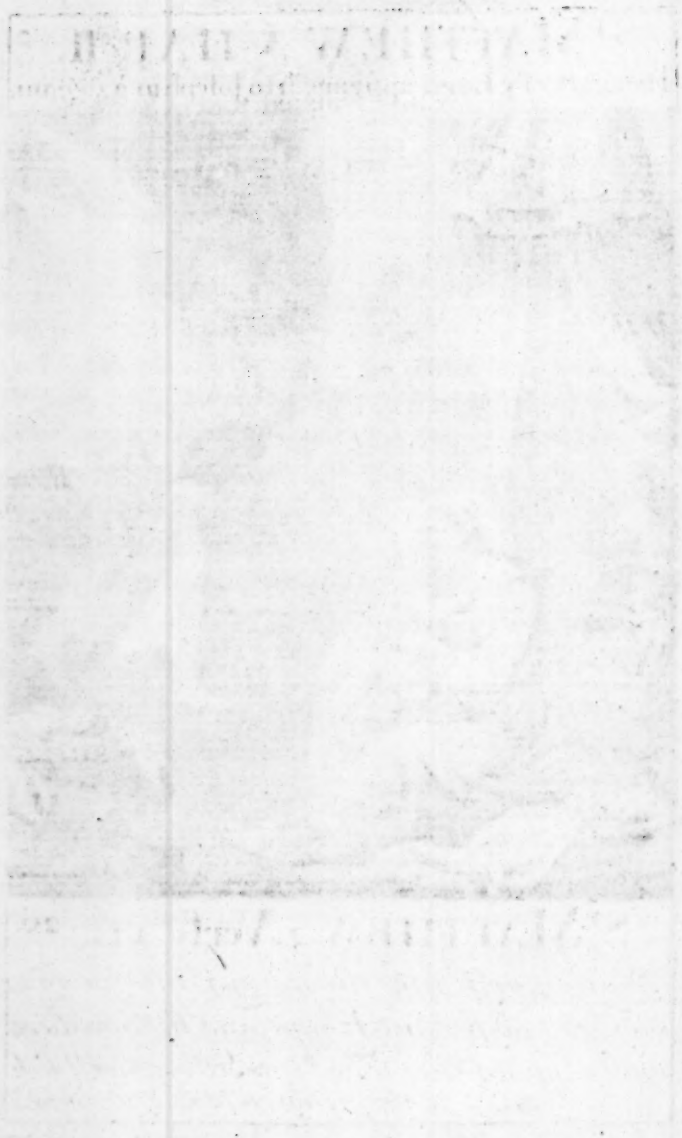
(x) This Execution was in the Beginning of the second Year after Christ's Nativity, as in all Probability we may guess; not at the two Years End, as

some suppose. The Number of Children slain at this Time is said to be 14000.

**ST MATTHEW CHAP. II.** 7  
The angel of <sup>e</sup> Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.



**ST MATTHEW 2. Verse 13. 26.**  
*Saying, arise, take the young child & his  
mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there  
until I bring thee word; for Herod will seek  
the young child to destroy him.*



decreed ; for by this Time the intended Prey was out of his Reach, and safe under the Wings of Providence.

*Herod* is not long in putting his bloody Resolution in Practice : Guilt and Malice soon furnishing him with Instruments suitable to his cruel Purpose, whom he disperses in all Parts to execute his bloody Commands, and without Pity or Distinction murder all the Male Children not above two Years old. Then was wofully verified the Prophecy of *Jeremy*, Ch. 31. v. 15. (y) *Rachel weeping for her Children, and would not be comforted.* The Shrieks of tender Mothers for their mangled Babes, and the Groans of expiring Infants fill the Skies: Death and remediless Despair rage in every Place, and the Surface of the Earth is crimson'd with innocent Blood.

During these bloody Transactions God had provided a Sanctuary in *Egypt* for the holy Child *Jesus*, a Chain of (z) Prophecies exactly concurring in every minute Particular, as had been foretold some Centuries before, and most agreeably and properly accom-

(y) This Part of *Jeremy's* Prophecy was spoken figuratively of the Captivity of *Babylon*, and the Slaughter at *Jerusalem*, long after *Rachel's* Death, who is here, though long before dead, said to lament ; and so also it hath here a second Completion in this Slaughter of the Infants : and *Rachel*, the Mother of *Benjamin*, of which Tribe, with that of *Judah*, the *Jews* were chiefly compos'd, is likewise here figuratively brought in lamenting the Slaughter, as of her Children, and that the more because she was buried there, *Gen.* 35. 19.

(z) *St. Matthew*, Ch. 2. v. 25. alludes to that Speech of *Hosea*, 11. 1. *Out of Egypt have I called my Son :* Which had one Accomplishment in the People of *Israel's* being carried into, and fetch'd out of *Egypt*, and was now again fulfilled in this true promised Seed of *Abraham*, that is, in *Christ*, (of whom *Israel*, called God's First-born,

was a Type) and in him, now that he was a Child, as it was said in *Hosea*. And to this Purpose it may be consider'd, how fitly *Joseph* was a Type of *Christ*, as he is represented to us in the History of his Flight into, and Return from *Egypt* : For as *Joseph* was by his Brethren sold into *Egypt*, so is *Christ* by the Persecution of *Herod* driven thither : As *Joseph* was separated from his Brethren, and cast out from among them, so was *Christ* for Fear of *Archelaus* separated from his own Tribe of *Judah*, and constrained to dwell in *Nazareth* of *Galilee*, whose Name may denote that Flight or Separation ; and may likewise signify an afflicted humbled Person, which may be applicable to *Christ's* being brought up in *Nazareth* ; a vile Place (*Can a good come out of Nazareth?*) and so a special Part of *Christ's* Humiliation to live there.



modated to the Person of our Saviour, of whom several in the Old Testament had been Types.

The Holy Pilgrims having tarried near seven Years (as it is commonly believ'd) in *Egypt*, *Joseph* is assured by an Angel of the Death of *Herod*, and commanded to return to the Land of *Israel* with his Holy Charge.

He readily obeys the heavenly Vision, and returns: but hearing that *Archelaus* succeeded his Father in *Judea*, and fearing that the Cruelty and Ambition of *Herod* might be intail'd upon the Son; and besides being warned of God in a Dream to turn aside into the Parts of *Galilee*, (which was of a distinct Jurisdiction, govern'd indeed by one of *Herod's* Sons, but not by *Archelaus*) he diverted thither: And there this Holy Family remained in the City of *Nazareth*.

From their Return out of *Egypt* to *Judea*, and their Habitation in *Nazareth*, till the Blessed Child Jesus was twelve Years of Age, we have nothing transmitted to us out of any authentick Record, but that they went to *Jerusalem* every Year at the Feast of the Passover; which Opportunities of Religion, and publick Address to God in the Rites of Festivals and Solemnities of the Temple, they had been denied during their Peregrination in *Egypt*. But being return'd to their own Country, they again enjoy the Blessings of those holy Societies and Employments, of which they had been so long depriv'd. At the Feast therefore of the Passover, when Jesus was twelve Years old, and was in the Holy City, attending upon the Paschal Rites and Solemn Sacrifices of the Law, his Parents having fulfill'd their Days of Festivity, went homeward, supposing the Child had been in the Caravan among his Friends, and so they travell'd for the Space of a whole Day's Journey; but when they sought him among their Kinsfolk and Acquaintance, and found him not, they returned to *Jerusalem* full of Fear and Sorrow. Who can express the uneasy Ap prehensions and sad Tremblings of Heart which

then

then throng'd about the Holy Virgin-Mother, who was in Pain not only for the Loss of the Joy of her Family, but the Hopes of all the World? What did not uneasy Care at that Time suggest to her upon the apprehension of a Loss so vastly considerable? Possibly an Angel might have carried him she knew not whither; or it may be the Son of *Herod* might have gotten the Prey which his cruel Father had missed. Whilst she had spent some Time under these Anxieties of Mind in her sad and holy Pursuit of her lost Jewel, despairing of the prosperous Event of any human Diligence, she made her Address to God, the only Relief and Succour of distressed Minds; and entering into the Temple to pray, God that knew her Desires, prevented her with the Blessings of his Goodness, and her Sorrow was changed into Joy and Wonder: forthere she found her Holy Son sitting in the midst of the Doctors, both hearing and asking them Questions.

The bare Sight of him soon obliterates their Care and Grief: But the glad Parents receive this Addition to their Joy, they find him illustrated with a Miracle; for when they saw him, they were amazed, and so were all that heard him, at his Understanding and Answers, beyond his Education and Experience, beyond his Years, and even the common Abilities and Capacities of the best Men, discoursing and disputing with the Learned up to the Height and Power of a Prophet, with the Brightness of an Angel, and the Infallibility of Inspiration it self.

The Virgin-Mother, though over-joy'd at the Sight of her lost Jewel, could not forbear expressing a gentle Correetion to him for the great Fright he had put her in, saying, *Son, why hast thou dealt thus with us?* Which he modestly excuses by giving this Account of himself; *Why should ye seek me? Knew ye not that I must be about my (a) Father's Business?* These Things

(a) *Father's Business.* The Greek *House*; so that it seems to refer to the Place where they found him, that is, in the Temple.

*Joseph* and the rest understood not, but *Mary* laid them up in her Heart, well knowing it was Part of his Employment, and his Father's Business to be in his House, where she had found him.

Being thus happily found by his Parents, he return'd with them to *Nazareth*, and was subject to them, where he lived in all Holiness and Humility, submitting to an Employment or Trade, which he undertook in Obedience to his supposed Father, and for the Support of that Holy Family, which was dear in the Eyes of God, though not splendid in the Opulency of a free and indulgent Fortune. He wrought in the Trade of a Carpenter; and when *Joseph* died, which happen'd before the Manifestation of Jesus unto *Israel*, he wrought alone, and was no more call'd the Carpenter's Son, but the Carpenter. Is not this the Carpenter, the Son of *Mary*? said his offended Countrymen, *Mark* 6. 3. And in this Condition did the Blessed Jesus abide till he was thirty Years old; for he that came to fulfil the Law would not suffer one Tittle of it to pass unaccomplish'd: for by the Law of the Nation, and Custom of the Religion, no Priest was to officiate, or Prophet to preach, before he was thirty Years of Age.

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## B O O K II.

*Christ's Man's-Estate.*

NOTwithstanding the mighty Draught of innocent Blood cruel *Herod* had drank in *Bethlehem*, his blood-thirsty Soul is not yet satiated, but seeks for more in the adjacent Parts: He hunts the Country round to glut his Cruelty, searching the highest Hills as well as the lowest Vales. But Providence, still watching over her own, timely withdrew *John* the Forerunner of the Saviour of the World from his rapacious Fury. *Elizabeth* hearing of the sad Havock *Herod's* Barbarity had made among the Infants in *Bethlehem*, thought her Holy Babe not secure among the Hills, but flies with him into the Wilderness, there in the desert Places and secret Recesses to conceal him from the cruel Tyrant's Rage, where she attended him with as much Care and Tenderneſs as the Affections and Fears of a Parent could expreſs in thoſe barren Solitudes. The Child was about eighteen Months old when his Mother firſt fled with him to Sanctuary: but after forty Days ſhe died; and his Father *Zachary*, at the Time of his (b) Miniſtration, which hap-

(b) *Miniſtration*. Every Rank or Courſe of Priests ſerved weekly in the Temple by Turns; which Courſe falling out by Lot, they did by Lot determine each particular Priests Service, ſameſy, who ſhould burn Incenſe, who ſhould ſlay the Beaſts, who lay them on the Altar, who dreſs the Lamps, &c. *Zacharias* was of the Courſe of *Abia*, *Luke* 1. 5. that is, of the eighth Courſe, and his Lot was to burn Incenſe, *Luke* 1. 9. As to the Death of *Zachary*, the Father of *John* Baptiſt, it is the Opinion of *St. Chryſoſtom*, *Peter Martyr*, *Tertullian*, and others, that it was he

that *Herod* ſlew between the Temple and the Altar, becauſe he reſuſed to betray his Son to him; eſpecially *Tertullian*, who reports it with this Circumſtance, That the Blood of *Zachary* had ſo beſmeared the Stones of the Pavement where he was ſacrificed, that no Art or Induſtry could waſh it out, the Tincture being indelible: As if, becauſe God did intend to exact of that Nation all the Blood of the Righteous from *Abel* to *Zachary*, who was the laſt of the Martyrs of the Synagogue, he would leave a Character of their Guilt in their Eyes to upbraid their Infidelity and Cruelty.

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pen'd about this Time, was killed in the Court of the Temple, *Herod* resolving to revenge the Disappointment of murdering the Son on the Father: So that the Child was expos'd to all the Dangers and Infelicitities of an Orphan, in a Place of Solitariness and Discomfort, and in a Time when a bloody Tyrant endeavour'd his Destruction. But when his Father and Mother were taken from him, the Lord took him up: For, according to the Tradition of the *Greeks*, God deputed an Angel to be his Nourisher and Guardian, as he had formerly done to *Ishmael* who dwelt in the Wilderness, and to *Elias* when he fled from the Rage of *Ahab*; so to this Child, who came in the Spirit and Power of *Elias*, to demonstrate that there can be no want where God undertakes the Care and Provision.

The Entertainment that *St. John's* Proveditor-Angel gave him was such as the Wilderness did afford, and such as might dispose him to an austere Life; where he spent his Time in Contemplation and Prayer, eating Locusts and wild Honey, and clothed not with soft, but a hairy Garment and a leathern Girdle, till the Time of his publick Appearance; which was in the fifteenth Year of *Tiberius* the Emperor, *Pontius Pilate* being Governor of *Judea*, when the Word of God came to *John* in the Wilderness, from whence he departed, and went into all the Country about, preaching the Baptism of Repentance for the Remission of Sins.

*St John*, according to the Prophecies of him, and the Designation of his Person by the Holy Ghost, was the Forerunner of Christ, sent to prepare the Way for him, and to dispose the People for the Reception of him: and therefore it was necessary he should in his Person appear eminent for Sanctity, and extraordinarily great in all the Occurrences and Circumstances of his Life, so as he might gain Credit to the Testimony he was to give concerning his Lord the Saviour of the World. And this the Baptist's Character most exactly answer'd; for at his quitting the solitary Retirement

ments of the Desert he seem'd what indeed he was, a rare and excellent Personage. The Contempt of the World, which he bore about him, his mortified Countenance and Deportment, his austere and eremetical Life, and his excellent Zeal and Spirit in preaching, created so great an Opinion of him among the People, that all held him for a Prophet, especially when by his Baptism he added a greater Solemnity to his Office. By this he so prevail'd, that he made fit Preparation for the Lord's appearing. And now it was that Multitudes throng'd from all Parts to hear the joyful News of Salvation from the Mouth of the Baptist: Cities and Towns are deserted and unpeopled, whilst the spacious Fields are crouded with their Inhabitants. *Jerusalem, Judea*, and all the Country about *Jordan*, press in to hear his Doctrine, which he delivers with great Force and Energy, severely reprehending the Pharisees and Sadduces, exhorting the People to Works of Mercy, the Publicans to decline Oppression, and to do Justice, the Soldiers to abstain from Plunder and Violence; and publishing that he was not the CHRIST, that he only baptized with Water, but that the *Messias* should baptize with the Holy Ghost, and with Fire; and finally, denouncing Judgment and great Severities to all the World, if impenitent, even Abscission and Fire unquenchable, he prevails with them to confess their Sins, and be baptized. And this was the joyful Dawn of the Gospel, to which *St. John Baptist* was like the Morning Star, foretelling the Approach of the Sun of Righteousness, who was just coming to enlighten the World with his Presence.

The full Time being come, Jesus took leave of his Mother and his Trade, to begin his Heavenly Father's Work, and take upon him the Prophetical Office in order to the Redemption of the World. Now whilst *St. John* was baptizing the People in the River *Jordan*, Jesus came to him to be baptized of him: But the Baptist, who had never seen his Face before,

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nor met him till now, being by the Holy Ghost inspired with a discerning Spirit, at his first Arrival knew him, and paid him Reverence; for when Jesus desired to be baptized, *John* forbid him, saying, *I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?* *John* wonder'd why the *Messias*, the Lamb of God, pure and without Spot, who needed not the Cleanings of Repentance, or the Washings of Baptism, should demand it, and of him a Sinner, and his Servant. But though he was no Sinner himself, yet was he made Sin for us; and therefore it was proper enough for him to perform the Sacrament of Sinners, who was to undergo the Shame and Punishment of Sin for them. Accordingly therefore the Holy Jesus who came, as himself owns in his Answer to the Baptist's Question, to fulfil all Righteousness, would receive that Rite which his Father had instituted in order to the Manifestation of his Son.

*John* having by the Impulse of the Holy Spirit already distinguish'd the Saviour of the World, who offer'd himself to be baptized among the vast Crouds of People who came to the Banks of *Jordan* for that End, after a short Expostulation with him of his own Unworthiness, who ought rather to receive the Honour and Blessing of Baptism from his Saviour, than his Saviour from him, no longer disputes his Lord's Commands, but baptizes him. The Holy Baptist having perform'd his Ministry, the Heavens were open'd, and the Air being cleared by an unusual and glorious Light, the Holy Ghost in the manner of a (a) Dove alighted upon his sacred Head, and God the Father gave a Voice from Heaven, saying, *Thou*

(a) *Dove*. As soon as Jesus was baptized, and come out of the Water, he fell down on his Knees in Prayer to his Father, *Luke* 3. 21. and whilst he was praying, the Heavens in a very remarkable manner parted asunder visibly before Christ, and the Spirit of God descended upon him as a Dove descends or alights upon any Thing; not in the Shape

of a Dove, but a Body of Light came down, and alighted upon him. And tho *St. Luke* says *in a bodily Shape*, yet he does not say the bodily Shape of a Dove; but that this Body of Light, which fell on our Saviour as he was praying, fell after the Manner and Motion of a Dove.

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**ST MATTHEW CHAP. IV.** <sup>8</sup>  
CHRIST fasteth, is tempted, and overcometh.



**ST MATTHEW 4. Verse 3. 35.**  
*When the tempter came to JESUS, he said, If  
thou be the Son of GOD, command that these stones  
be made bread.*

*art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* This was the Inauguration and Proclaiming of the *Messias*, when he was about to begin to take upon him the Office of the great Prophet of the new Covenant. And this was the greatest Meeting that ever was upon Earth, where the whole Mystery of the Trinity was open'd, and shewn as much as human Apprehension was capable of: The first Person, God the Father, kept his State in Heaven, giving Testimony to his Holy Son, and appeared only in a Voice, without any visible Representation: The second Person in the Veil of Humanity: And the third descending in a glorious Body of Light with the Motion of a Dove. Thus was manifested to *Israel* the Blessed Saviour of the World by Baptism, to which by his Submission he gave his Sanction, and to all who should be rightly baptized the Kingdom of Heaven should be opened, as was miraculously done in this Ceremony.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, had open'd the Heavens, which hitherto never had been open'd to Man, and was declared to be the Son of God, that he might give some Evidence of his Piety and Constancy before he enter'd on his Prophetick Office, it was thought fit some Trial should be made of him; and to that End, by Incitation or Impulse of the Spirit of God (of which he was full, *Luke 4. 1.*) he went from *Jordan* farther into the Desert, not voluntarily putting himself upon Temptation, but doing it according to the Appointment of God; being led into the Wilderness by the good Spirit, to be tempted by the evil. Being there, he was enabled by the miraculous Power of God to continue forty Days and Nights without eating or drinking: During which Time he was assaulted with Variety of Temptations, but that of Hunger seemed to be the most pungent; for at the expiration of the forty Days, the Devil himself taking advantage of that Opportunity, attacks him, inviting him to eat Bread of his own providing, which might refresh his human Nature, and at the same Time

prove his Divinity, hoping that his Hunger, and the Desire of convincing the Devil, might tempt him to eat before the Time appointed : *If thou art the Son of God, says he, make use now of that Power to thine own Relief, and turn these Stones into Bread.* But Jesus answered, *It is written, Man shall not live by Bread alone, but by every Word (d) that proceedeth out of the Mouth of God.* Meaning, That in the Word of God a Promise is expressed or implied of the Supply of all Things necessary for him that is doing the Work of God.

The Devil failing in this Attempt, tries him again, requiring only a Demonstration of his being the Son of God. He taketh him up into the Holy City, that is, he carried him in the Air, without doing him any Hurt, to *Jerusalem*, being permitted by God so to do, and set him on the (e) Battlement of the Temple; and urging *Psalms 91. 11.* to him, he persuaded him to cast himself down from thence, by that Means to testify himself to be the Son of God; for if it were so, he might do this securely. Jesus understood his Design; and though he was secure of God's Protection, yet he would not tempt God, nor vainly sollicite his Providence, by tempting him to an unnecessary Conservation. This Assault then proving ineffectual as the former, the Devil unites all his Force of Art and Stratagem; places the Holy Jesus upon an exceeding high Mountain, and by an Angelical Power draws into one View an admirable Map of all the Beauties and Glory of the World, in as splendid and inviting Manner as he could, and represents it to the Eyes of Jesus, saying, *All these Things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.* The Devil growing thus violent in his Temptations, and so impudent and blas-

(d) Word. Bread or ordinary means of sustaining Men is not of necessity to the Life of Man : God can feed and uphold him other Ways, whatsoever he pleaseth to make use of to that Purpose; his bare Word, and nothing else, *Deut. 8. 3.*

(e) Battlement. The Greek Word

*Pterugion* signifies literally a little Wing; but it doth here denote the exterior Circuit of the Top of an House, which compasseth it in to keep Men from danger of falling from the Roof, and is therefore in the Law enjoyn'd in their Buildings, *Deut. 22. 8.* So that the Greek ought to be render'd Battlement.

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phemous in his Demands, provoked the Holy Lamb to assume his Godlike Power, and command him away, telling him, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him (f) only shalt thou serve.* Then for a (g) while Satan left tempting him, (afterwards setting himself more industriously to work on all Stratagems to take away his Life) and the Angels came and minister'd to him, being Messengers of Comfort sent from his Father to support his Humanity, and imploy'd in resisting and discountenancing the Assaults and temporal Hostilities of the Spirits of Darknes.

Whilst our blessed Lord was in the Desart, by a Forty-Days Fast doing Penance for our Sins, and struggling against and overcoming all the Temptations and Allurements of the Devil, St. *John*, as became the Office of a Forerunner, ceased not to give publick Testimony of Christ now manifested: For after that by a Sign from Heaven the Baptist was confirm'd in Spirit, and understood Jesus to be the *Messias*, he immediately published to the *Jews* what God had manifested to him: And first to the Priests and Levites, sent from the *Sanhedrin* or Council, he declared that himself was not the (h) Christ, nor *Elias*, nor that Prophet whom they by a special Tradition did expect to be revealed they knew not when. As concerning himself, he said, "That he was the Voice of one crying in the Wilderness, make straight the Way of

(f) *Only.* St. *Augustin*, and the *Romanists* after him, to defend their Saint and Image-Worship, observe that our Saviour in *Mat. 4. 10.* does not say, *Thou shalt only worship the Lord thy God*, though he says, *Him only shalt thou serve*: Inferring from hence, That because the Word *only* is not used before or with the Word *worship*, that therefore we may worship Saints and Images as they do. But this is to be more subtle than the Devil himself, who having only requir'd of our Saviour to fall down and worship him, went off baffled at his Answer, which yet would have been imperfect and impertinent, if St. *Augustin's* Fancy were true; and on which

the Devil no doubt, who is not wont to slip any Advantage, would have taken hold. But if this Father, and those that blindly follow'd his Authority, had applied themselves more closely to study the Style of the Scriptures, they would have been ashamed to use such Kind of Arguments; for it is evident that the Word *only*, which is expressed in the Command of serving God, is also understood in that of worshipping him.

(g) *Luke 4. 13.*

(h) The following Texts relate to the remaining Part of this Paragraph; *John 1. 20, 21. v. 23, 26, 27. v. 15, 27, 30. Mat. 3. 11.*



“ the Lord:” But there was one amongst them, not known, a Person of great Dignity, to whom the Baptist was not worthy to do the meanest Office; who coming after *John*, was preferr’d before him; who was to encrease, and the Baptist to decrease; who did baptize with the Holy Ghost and with (i) Fire.

This was the illustrious Character of our Blessed Lord’s personal Prerogative; but as yet no Demonstration was made of his Person, till after the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon Jesus: And then, when and where-ever the Baptist saw him, he points him out with his Finger, *Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the Sins of the World: This is he.* But more particularly after the Return of our Blessed Lord from the Wilderness: For *John* having to the Priests and Levites disowned himself to be Christ, the (k) next Day he seeth Jesus coming to him, and by the Power of the Holy Ghost he cries out, *Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the Sins of the World;* and confirming his former Testimony of him, he adds, *This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a Man that is preferred before me, for he was before me. And though I knew him not, yet I knew that he should be made manifest to Israel; therefore am I come baptizing with Water.* And *John* bare farther record of the *Messias*, saying, *I saw the Spirit descending from Heaven, as a Dove descends, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptize with Water, the same said to me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining upon him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.* This, says he, I saw, and bear record that this is the Son of God.

The Day after the Baptist appeared again; and besides the Multitudes that promiscuously flock’d to hear his Discourses, he had, according to the manner of the Jewish Masters, some peculiar and select Disciples, who more constantly attended upon his Lectures, and for

(i) Fire. Fire here, according to St. Chrysostom, signifies the Efficacy of the Holy Ghost; whose Operation is so mighty where it takes, that like

Fire it consumes the Impurities of Sin.

(k) *John* 1. v. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34. Mar. 3. v. 16,

the most part waited upon his Person. Amongst these was *Andrew*, who was then with him about *Jordan*, when our Saviour, who some time since had been baptized, came that way : Upon whose Approach the Baptist told them that this was the *Messias*, the great Person of whom he had so often spoken, to usher in whose Appearing his whole Ministry was but subservient ; that this was the Lamb of God, the true Sacrifice, that was to expiate the Sins of Mankind. Upon this Testimony (l) *Andrew* and another Disciple (probably St. *John*) follow our Saviour to the Place of his Abode. After some Converse with him, *Andrew* goes to acquaint his Brother *Simon*, and both together came to Christ ; who, as soon as he beheld *Simon*, said, *Thou art Simon the Son of Jona, thou shalt be called* (m) *Cephas*, which signifies a Stone.

The Day following Jesus going into *Galilee* finds out (n) *Philip* of *Bethsaida*, and bids him follow him ; which was the constant Form he used in making choice of his Disciples, and those that did inseparably attend upon him. *Philip* being thus honourably distinguish'd by his Lord and Saviour, and Religion having taken possession of his Mind, it soon diffuses it self ; for away he goes, finds out (o) *Nathanael*, a Man of Note and Eminency, and acquaints him with the Tidings of the new-found *Messias*. *Nathanael* cannot easily be induced to give Credit to *Philip's* News ; for the Title of *Nazarene* was

(l) *Andrew*. Upon this Account St. *Andrew* is generally by the Fathers and ancient Writers stiled the *Procleter*, or first-called Disciple ; though in a strict Sense he was not so : For though he was the first of the Disciples that came to Christ, yet he was not called till afterwards.

(m) *Cephas*. *Anaclete* and other Roman Writers weakly derive *Cephas* (the Syriac Name of *Peter*, which signifies a Stone) from the Greek Word *Kephale*, which signifies a Head, and by this silly Mistake prove St. *Peter's* Supremacy.

(n) *Philip*. The Prerogative of being first call'd evidently belongs to *Philip*,

he being the First-fruits of our Lord's Disciples. For though *Andrew* and *Peter* were the first that came to and conversed with Christ, yet did they immediately return to their Trades again, and were not call'd to their Discipleship till above a whole Year after, when *John* was cast into Prison.

(o) *Nathanael*. Here is room for a very probable Conjecture of St. *Augustin* on *Nathanael* ; it may be wonder'd at, that our Saviour bestowing such particular Marks of Esteem on this good Man, did not chuse him into the College of Apostles : To which St. *Augustin* gives this for Answer, Because he was a

was both by *Jews* and *Gentiles* reckoned the greatest Re-  
proach could be set on any one ; therefore *Nathanael*  
questions with *Philip*, Can any good Thing come out  
of *Nazareth* ? But *Philip* insisting on what he had seen  
and heard, urges him to go along with him and see ;  
which he did, and was quickly convinc'd. *Nathanael*  
no sooner had approach'd his Saviour, but he receives  
from him a most ample Testimony of his holy Simplicity  
and Honesty in these words, *Behold an Israelite indeed,*  
*in whom is no guile !* *Nathanael* in a Surprise asks the  
Lord how he knew him ? Jesus told him, that before  
*Philip* called him, when he was under the Fig-tree he  
saw him. Upon which, in an Ecstasy of Joy, *Natha-*  
*nael* acknowledges his Saviour, *Thou art the promised*  
*Messias, described to us as a King :* And Jesus took this Will  
and Forwardness of Affection of *Nathanael* in so good  
part, that he promised him greater Things ; which  
gave Occasion to the first Prophecy made by our  
Saviour. For he said unto him, *Because I said I saw thee*  
*under the Fig-tree, believest thou ? Thou shalt see greater*  
*Things than these.* And then he prophesied, (p) That  
he should see Heaven opened, and the Angels of God  
ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.

Much about the same Time there happened to be a  
Marriage in *Cana of Galilee*, in the Neighbourhood of  
his Dwelling, to which Jesus and his Mother being in-  
vited, he went to do Civility to the Persons espoused,  
and Honour to the holy Rite of Marriage. The Per-  
sons then married were but of indifferent Fortunes,  
richer in the Love of their Neighbours, than in the  
Fulness of their large Possessions. They had more  
Company than Wine : for the (q) Master of the Feast

Poster of the Law ; which Profession  
at that Time was grown very scanda-  
lous, by reason of the many and vile  
Corruptions crept into it ; which soon  
after was the Occasion of so many Woes  
proclaim'd against the Professors of it  
by our Saviour.

(p) *John* 1. 51.

(q) *Master of the Feast.* According to  
the Piety and Order of the *Jewish* Nati-

on, they chose the *Architriclinos*, or  
Master of the Feast, from the Order of  
Priests to be the President of it, that by  
the Reverence of his Person he might  
restrain all Inordination, by his Discre-  
tion govern and order the Circumstan-  
ces, by his religious Knowledge direct  
the Solemnities of Marriage, and by his  
Power keep the Guests within the  
Bounds of Modesty and Prudence.

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complained to the Bridegroom, that the Guests wanted Wine. As soon as the holy Virgin Mother had notice of the Want of Wine, she mentioned it to Christ, as an Opportunity of revealing his Power, by shewing a Miracle in supplying the Guests. But Christ answer'd, *Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine Hour is not yet come*: By this Answer intending her no Denial, to whom he always bare a religious Respect, but telling her, that this Part of his Office, to which he was sent by God, was a Thing, wherein she, though his earthly Parent, was not to interpose; adding moreover, that it was not yet seasonable for him to shew his Power to all, intimating his Design, that he would do it more privately, than by her Words she intended. Whereupon, that none but the Waiters might take Notice of it (who knowing the Wine was all spent, must of course know if any Supply were made) she gives express Charge to them to do whatsoever he commanded. There were there six (r) Water-Pots of Stone, Cisterns of a competent Bigness, out of which they were wont to draw Water for every Man's Use. The Servants fill them to the Brim, and, as they were commanded, drew out, and presented to the Governour of the Feast, who knew not of it, till the Miracle grew publick: For while the Guests wonder'd at the Management of this Feast in keeping the best Wine till the last, it being the Custom of the *Jews* to give their Guests the strongest and richest Wines at first, it grew apparent that he who was the Lord of the Creatures, which in their first Seeds have an obediencial Capacity to receive the Impresses of what Forms he pleases to imprint, could give new Natures, and produce new Qualities in any Subject in which he chuses to glorify his Son.

(r) *Water-Pots*. These were set there to wash in, after the Manner of the *Jews*, who constantly washed before Meat; especially in all publick Meetings, for fear of touching Pollutions, or

contracting illegal Impurities; which they did with a Curiousness next to Superstition, washing the very Beds and Tables at their Feasts,



This was the Beginning of Miracles which Jesus did in *Cana of Galilee*; by which he gave Evidence of the Presence of his Divinity, and accordingly his Disciples believed on him.

Immediately after this Miracle, Jesus went down to *Capernaum*, and abode there a few Days; but the great Feast of the Passover being near, he went up to *Jerusalem*, where the first publick Act of Record that he did, was an Act of holy Zeal and Religion in behalf of the Honour of God and his Temple: For divers Merchants and Exchangers of Money made the Temple a mere Market and Bank, and brought Beasts thither to be sold for Sacrifice against the great Paschal Solemnity, just approaching. At the Sight of which the blessed Jesus, being moved with Zeal and Indignation, made a Whip of Cords, and drove the Beasts out of the Temple, overthrew the Bankers's Tables, and commanded them that sold Doves to take them from thence. His holy Zeal was heighten'd at the Profanation of the Temple, which was peculiarly set apart for God's Service; and therefore he here publish'd the Religion of holy Places, establishing their Sacredness for ever by his Gospel-admonition at *Jerusalem*: *Take these Things hence; make not my Father's House a House of Merchandize, for it shall be called a House of Prayer to all Nations.* This Action of our Saviour's appearing to some like the religious Bigotry of the Zealots among the *Jews*, if it was not attested by something extraordinary, they thought might be abused into an Excess of Liberty; and therefore they required a Sign of him, to shew by what Au-

(s) Tables. The Greek Word *Trapeza*, Table, here is that from which those that dealt in returning Money, or in Bills of Exchange, and made Advantage or Gain by so doing, are called *Trapezites* ordinarily among Authors. But here the *Trapezite* seems to signify that Sort of Men, who (as Merchants among us) return Money for others to some other Place, by which they received some themselves. Hence it was that the *Israelites* being obliged by the Law to come up to *Jerusalem* (how far soever they

dwelt from it) and there to sacrifice and to offer the half Shekel for the Use of the Temple, *Exod. 30. 13.* (which by reason of the Length of their Journey, sometimes they could not do) These *Trapezites* set up their Tables in the very Temple, that so they might traffick with all that had need of them, in like manner as others bought Oxen, and Sheep, and Doves, to sell there to them who had not brought their Sacrifices with them.

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thority he did these Things. But he gratify'd their Curiosity only by foretelling the Resurrection of his Body after three Days Death, which he expressed in the Metaphor of the Temple; *Destroy this Temple, and I will build it up in three Days.* But he spake of the Temple of his Body, and they understood him of the Temple at *Jerusalem*: and it was never rightly construed till it was accomplished; for after he was risen from the Dead, his Disciples recollected that he had formerly spoken this to them.

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## B O O K III.

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### *The first Year of Christ's publick Ministry.*

AT this publick Convention of the *Jewish Nation* in *Jerusalem*, Jesus performed many Miracles, giving Sight to the Blind, and Feet to the Lame, publishing himself to be the *Messias*, and persuading many to be his Disciples; amongst whom was *Nicodemus*, a Doctor of the Law, and one of the *Jewish Sanhedrin*, who fearing to come publickly in the Day-time, came by Night to Jesus, and affirmed himself to be convinced by the Miracles which he had seen: for he allow'd that no Man could do those Miracles, unless God were with him; which plainly testified that he was sent by God to teach and instruct them.

When Jesus perceived his Inclination and Understanding to be so far advanc'd and dispos'd, he began to instruct him in the great Secret and Mystery of Regeneration, telling him, that every Production is of the same Nature and Condition with its Parent; from Flesh comes Flesh and Corruption; from the Spirit comes Spirit, and Life, and Immortality; and nothing

thing could from a Principle of Nature arrive to a supernatural End; and therefore the only Door to enter into the Kingdom of God, was Water by the Assistance of the Holy Ghost. Moreover, the blessed Jesus willing to make Things still more plain and easy, telling him, that acknowledging him to be the *Messias*, or sent from God, would not be sufficient, without undertaking his Service, owning and confessing him in despite of all Fear of Men, being his Profelyte, and forsaking his former Course; he tells him positively, that unless he would be born again, which is a Phrase to denote a Profelyte of Christ, and when Occasion required, forsake all for Christ's sake, even his former Course of Life and Dignity in the *Jewish* State, (contrary to his coming privately to him by Night, and acknowledging him secretly) he should not see the Kingdom of God, be a Christian here, (a Privilege far beyond that of being a *Jew* or a Member of the *Sanhedrin*) or a Saint hereafter.

This was strange Philosophy to *Nicodemus*; who attending only to the literal Sound, not Sense of our Saviour's Words, asks him how a Man of full Years can be born again. But Jesus bid him not to wonder, for this was not a Work of Humanity, but the Fruit of God's Spirit. For the Spirit bloweth where it listeth, and is as the Wind, certain and notorious in the Effects, but secret in the Principle and Manner of Production. And therefore this Doctrine was not to be taken according to the Proportions of natural Principles or Experiments of Sense, but to the Secrets of preternatural Speculations.

(1) Then Christ proceeds in his Sermon, telling him there are yet higher Things for him to apprehend and believe; for this, in respect of some other Mysteries of his Gospel, was but as Earth in comparison of Heaven. Then he tells of his Descent from Heaven, foretells his Death and Ascension, and the Blessing of Redemption, which he came to work for

(1) See *John* 3. to v. 22.

Mankind: He preaches the Love of the Father, the Mission of the Son, the Rewards of Faith, and the Glories of Eternity; he upbraids the unbelieving and impenitent, and declares the Differences of a holy and corrupt Conscience; the Shame and Fears of the one, and the Confidence and Serenity of the other. And this is the Sum of his Sermon to *Nicodemus*; which was the fullest of mysterious Speculation and abstracted Sense of any that he ever made, except that which he made immediately before his Passion, all his other Sermons being more practical.

From *Jerusalem* the Holy Jesus goes into the Country of *Judea*, attended by many Disciples who were convinc'd of his Divinity by the Evidence of his Miracles: and there he tarried with them and baptized; at which Time *John* also was baptizing in *Ænon*, near to *Salem*, a Place chosen by him as commodious to that Purpose by reason of the Pools of Water. But *John's* Disciples hearing that Jesus baptized, came to tell him, that the Person to whom he bare Witness, received Profelytes with the same Ceremony of Baptism as he did, and that there was a great Recourse to him. In Answer to whom *John* says; I can do no more than I have Commission from God to do, and that Commission doth not equal me to him; and therefore you cannot but remember, that I always said of my self, I am not the Messias, but only his Herald. *John* therefore acquitting himself thus in publick by renewing his former Testimony of Christ, that he was the Messias, foretels that his own Ministry was near an End, that the Messias should daily (v) increase in Splendor, but that he should proportionably decrease, for Christ came from above, was above all; and the Sum of his Doctrine was, that which he had heard and seen from the Father, whom God sent to that Purpose; to whom God had set his Seal, that he was true; who spake the Words of God; whom the Father loved; to whom he gave the Spirit without measure, and into whose Hands

(v) Increase. See *John* 3. v. 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36.



God had delivered all Things; this was he, whose Testimony the World received not. And that they might know not only what Person they slighted, but how great Salvation they also neglected, he sums up all his Sermons, and finishes his Mission with this Saying, He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting Life; and he that believeth not on the Son shall not see Life, but the Wrath of God abideth on him.

Now that the Baptist had fulfilled his Office of bearing Witness to the Saviour of the World, God was pleased to give him his Writ of Ease, and to bring him to his Reward upon this Occasion. *John*, who had learnt to despise the World and all its exterior Vanities, did his Duty so justly and without Respect of Persons, that as he reprov'd the People for their Prevarications, so he spared not *Herod*, though a Prince, for his; but frankly and honestly told him, that it was utterly unlawful for him to live with *Herodias*, his Brother *Philip's* Wife. *Herodias* being touch'd with this Reproof from *John* to *Herod*, design'd him Mischief, and would have removed him out of the Way by some Death or other, but could not any Way compass it: For (w) *Herod*, because of the Influence *John* had over the People, was afraid to meddle with him, *Mat.* 14. 5. and therefore shut him up in Prison; where, whether he heard him oft and gladly, as some Versions have it, I shall refer to the Note: but it's certain this one particular of *Herodias* stuck

(w) *Herod*. Our Translation and that of *Geneva* seem to represent *Herod* as a Prince who respected *John* Baptist, and had a great Esteem for all that he said, *Mark* 6. 20. though in *St. Matthew* and *St. Luke*, he is represented as a wicked Wretch, whom nothing but the Fear of the People, that look'd on *John* as a Prophet, did hinder from putting him to Death, *Mat.* 14. 5. *Luke* 3. 19, 20. But we are to consider, that the *Greek* Word, which the *Geneva* Version translates to reverence, and ours to observe, signifies to keep Prisoner, or to observe with an ill Design. We must consider further, that *R. Stephanus*, and

*Beza*, had some *Greek* Copies wherein instead of the Words which we render, *He did many Things*, there are Words which signify, *He was much vexed or troubled*: Which indeed much better represent the Temper of that dissolute and wicked Prince. *Josephus* observes, that *Herod* had put the Baptist to Death, because he thought the People led by him; which is an Argument that he did neither respect him, nor hear him gladly, nor do many Things for Love of him. Though this Text is otherwise explain'd by *Dr. Hammond*, and many ancient Commentators,

close to him, tho *John's* Reproofs could not prevail with him to part with her; and for which the Baptist about a Year after felt the Fury and Malice of a revengeful Woman's Spleen in Prison; where we shall leave him, and return to the History.

The blessed Jesus hearing that *John* was cast into Prison, and that the Pharisees were envious at him for the great Multitudes of People that resorted to his Baptism, which he ministred not in his own Person, but by the Deputation of his Disciples, they finishing the Ministration which himself (x) began, he left *Judea*, and came again into *Galilee*; and in his Passage he touch'd at *Sychar* a City of *Samaria*; where in the Heat of the Day and Weariness of his Journey, he sat himself down in a Place where *Jacob* had once digged a Well; whether, when his Disciples were gone to buy Meat, a *Samaritan* Woman came to draw Water, of whom Jesus asked some to cool his Thirst. The Woman little knew the Excellency of the Person who asked so small a Favour; but prosecuting the Spite of her Nation, and the Interest and (y) Quarrel of the Schism, demanded why he, who was a *Jew*, should ask Water of her that was a *Samaritan*, the *Jews* having no Commerce or Communication of Familiarity with the *Samaritans*. This Quarrel so implanted, improved in every Understanding; for though the Woman perceived Jesus to

(x) *Began.* Euodius Bishop of Antioch reports, that Jesus baptized the blessed Virgin his Mother and *Peter* only, and *Peter* baptized *Andrew*, *James*, and *John*, and they others. *Niceph.* l. 2. c. 3. *Hist.*

(y) *Quarrel.* The Ground of the Quarrel was this. In the sixth Year of *Hezekiah*, *Salmanassar* King of *Assyria* sack'd *Samaria*, transported the *Israelites* to *Assyria*, and planted an *Assyrian* Colony in *Samaria*: Which Colony being destroyed by divine Vengeance, the King thought the Cause was their not serving the God of *Israel*, and therefore sent a *Jewish* captive Priest to instruct the remaining *Assyrians* in the *Jewish* Religion, notwithstanding they

still retained the *Gentile* Superstitions, till *Manasses*, the Brother of *Jaddi* the High-Priest at *Jerusalem*, married the Daughter of *Sanballat*. *Manasses* being reproved for marrying the Daughter of an uncircumcised *Gentile*, and admonish'd to dismiss her, flies to *Samaria*, persuades his Father-in-Law to build a Temple in Mount *Gerizim*, introduces the Rites of daily Sacrifice, and makes himself High-Priest, pretends to be the true Successor of *Aaron*, and commences a Schism in the Time of *Alexander* the Great. Hence the Question of Religion grew so high, that where-ever a *Jew* and *Samaritan* met, it occasion'd great Animosities, which often terminated in Bloodshed or Murder.

be a Prophet, yet she undertook this Question with him: *Our Fathers worshipped in this Mountain; and ye say that Jerusalem is the Place where Men ought to worship.* Jesus knew the Schism was great enough already, and he was unwilling to make it wider; and though he gave Testimony to the Truth by saying, (2) Salvation is of the *Jews*, and we know what we worship, ye do not; yet because the Subject of the Question was shortly to be taken away, Jesus takes Occasion to preach the Gospel, to hasten an Expedient by way of Anticipation to reconcile the disagreeing Interests, and settle a Revelation to be verified for ever.

But all this while the Holy Jesus was thirsty, and therefore hastens to discourse of Water, though as yet he got none. He tells her of living Water, of eternal Satisfaction, of never thirsting again, of her own personal Condition, of (a) matrimonial Relation, and professes himself to be the *Messias*: Upon which he is interrupted by his Disciples, who had returned from the City, and wonder'd to see him alone talking with the Woman, contrary to his usual Custom and Reservation.

The Woman full of Joy and Wonder left her Water-pot, and ran to the City to publish the *Messias*; and immediately the People of the City came out to see, and many believed on him upon the Testimony of the Woman, and more when they heard his own Discourses. Then they invited him to the Town; and though *Mat. 10. 5.* he forbid his Disciples at that Time to go into any City of the *Samaritans*, (that they might make the *Jews* see they were his peculiar Care at that Time) yet to shew that the Gospel was not their Inclosure, he himself now stays two Days with

(2) *John 4. 22.*

(a) When our Saviour had bid the Woman of *Samarita* to call her Husband, she answer'd, I have no Husband; and the Translations make our Saviour approve her Answer, by replying, Thou hast well said, I have no Husband. But *Erasmus* and others have very judi-

ciously observ'd, that this is an ironical Way of speaking, which is so far from approving what one says, that, on the contrary, it represents it absurd and ridiculous. The Words then ought to be render'd, *Finely answer'd indeed, I have no Husband, &c.*

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ST JOHN CHAP. IV. 9  
Christ talketh with the woman of Samaria.



ST JOHN 4. Verse 7. 48.  
*There cometh a woman of Samaria  
to draw water. JESUS saith unto her,  
Give me to drink.*





the *Samaritans*, who received him with hospitable Civilities; after which he returned to his own *Galilee*, where he was received with great Reverence and Respect, by reason of the many Miracles which the *Galileans* saw him do at the Feast; for they also went to the Feast. And being at *Cana* where he wrought the first Miracle, a certain (b) noble Person came and addressed himself to Jesus with great Humility and Reverence, desiring him that he would come to his House, and cure his Son now at the point of Death; This Request he seconds with much Importunity, fearing his Son should be dead before he could get to him. The Holy Jesus, to shew the Excellency of his Power, and that he did not perform his Miracles by any natural Operations, cured the Child at a distance, and dismiss'd the believing Parent, who joyfully returning home, was by the Way congratulated with the welcome News of his Son's Recovery; and inquiring of his Servants the Hour when the Child began to amend, by the Account they gave him he recovered at the same time when Jesus pronounc'd those salutary healing Words, Thy Son liveth. Upon this happy Miracle the pious Courtier is convinc'd of his Saviour's Divinity, and believes on him; and not only he, but his whole Family are converted, and become Christ's Disciples. This was the second Miracle that Jesus did in *Cana*, he having perform'd many betwixt these in other Places, at *Jerusalem* and other Parts of *Palestine*.

After this Jesus left *Nazareth*, and came to *Capernaum*, a Maritime Town, and of great Resort, chusing that for his Scene of Preaching, and Place of Dwelling: For now the Time was fulfilled, that the Office of *John Baptist* was expir'd, and the Kingdom of God was at hand. Our Blessed Saviour therefore

(b) Noble. The Greek Word *Basilikos* in this Place undoubtedly signifies an Officer of the King; one that had some Place at the Court of *Herod Antipas*, who was then Tetrarch of *Galilee*. St.

*Jerom* renders it *Palatin*. But the great Mistake of all about this Word is in the *Latin* Version; which he reads *Regulus*, by mistake reading the Greek Word *Basilikos* for *Basilicos*.

preached the Sum of the Gospel, Faith and Repentance. And what that was, all his Sermons afterwards did declare.

Whilst he dwelt in this Town of *Capernaum*, the Work of the Gospel growing great and pregnant, the Holy Jesus thought it convenient to chuse Disciples to his Ministry and Service in the Work of Preaching, and to be Witnesses of all that he should say and do, for Ends which were afterwards made publick. In order to which he walked by the Sea-side, where he saw two Brothers, *Simon* which is called *Peter*, and *Andrew* his Brother, casting a Net into the Sea, for they were Fishers. Whilst he was preaching there, the People so throng'd about him, that he was forced to enter into *Simon's* Ship; and desiring him to put off a little Way from the Land, he sat down and taught the People from the Ship: Which Sermon of his he confirms immediately with a Miracle; for as soon as he had done speaking to the People, he bad *Simon* launch out into the Deep, and let down the Nets; who despairing of Success from the ill Luck he had met with over Night, told Jesus it would be to no purpose; however in obedience to him he would let the Nets down, which he had no sooner done, but he inclosed such a Multitude of Fishes, that the Net broke, and they were forced to call to their Partners for Help; who coming filled both the Ships, so that they began to sink. This prodigious Draught of Fish struck *Simon Peter* and his Partners with Amazement and Fear, insomuch that *Peter* in a Sense of his own Unworthiness falls down at the Feet of Jesus, and desires him to depart from him, for he was not worthy of his Presence. But Jesus speaks Comfort to poor terrified *Peter*, bids him not fear; for by that Miracle he had consigned him and his Partners to become Fishers of Men, who by their Prudence, Holiness, and good Doctrine, should gain Souls to God. And as soon as they had brought their Ships to Land, and secured them, Jesus commanded *Simon* and his Brother *Andrew*

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to follow him; who in dutiful Obedience to the Call of their Blessed Lord, leave their Nets, and all Things else, and follow him. And when Jesus had gone a little further, he saw two other Brothers, *James* the Son of *Zebedee*, and *John* his Brother, in a Ship with *Zebedee* their Father, mending their Nets. And straightway he called them, whose early Faith and swift Obedience to the Commands of their Blessed Lord hasten them to enter into the Service of their Master, who alone was able to emancipate them from the Slavery of Sin and this wicked World. They therefore leaving their Father *Zebedee* in the Ship with the hired Servants, immediately followed him. With this little Family Jesus goeth up and down *Galilee*, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, healing all manner of Diseases, curing Demoniacs, cleansing Lepers, and administering Strength and Comfort to all diseased and afflicted Persons that were brought to him.

Among the many Instances of remarkable Cures which Jesus wrought, there was one very conspicuous; for while he was teaching in a Synagogue at *Capernaum*, and the People stood astonished at his Doctrine (for the Authority and Power with which he expressed himself, shewed him more than mortal) to add to their Admiration, one of the Congregation that was possessed with an unclean Spirit cried with a loud Voice, *Let us alone, what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth, art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.* Thus the very Devils confess'd him to be the very Christ, the Son of God: But Jesus rebuked the Devils, not suffering them further to proclaim him to the World; chusing rather to implant Faith in the Persuasions of his Disciples by moral Arguments, and the pleasing Demonstrations of the Spirit, than to be manifested by the Conviction and forced Testimonies of accursed and unwilling Spirits. These Wonders spread his Fame about every where, which daily advanced by the Increase of fresh Miracles: For going from the Sy-



nagogue to *Simon's* House, by a Touch of his Sacred Hand he cured *Simon's* Wife's Mother of a Fever. These repeated Instances of his divine Power and Authority invite all People either through Curiosity or Necessity to come to him, but especially the latter; for whoever had any Demoniacks or diseased Persons, they brought them to him, in a faithful and assured Hope and Expectation of a speedy Relief and Cure; of which none that ever addressed themselves to him ever fail'd, for his Compassion was as great as his Power. These miraculous Cures made him the Talk and Wonder of Men; insomuch, that by the continual Application of the distressed to him, he was, as it were, besieged by an Army of Invalids in *Simon's* House, who flocked thither for Relief, and whom he expeditiously dismiss'd with Cure and Comfort.

After he had healed those Multitudes which beset *Simon's* House, he retired into a desert Place very early in the Morning, that he might have an Opportunity to pray, free from the Importunities and Noise of the Multitude. But he could not be so hid, being soon discover'd even in his very Solitude; for the Multitude found him out, imprisoning him in their constant and undeniable Attendance. Therefore to prevent their more importunate Addresses, Jesus plainly told them, he must preach the Gospel to other Cities also, resolving to pass to the other side of the Lake of *Genesareth*, so to quit the Throng. Whither as he was passing, a Scribe offered himself a Disciple to his Institution; till Jesus told him his Condition was worse than that of Foxes and Birds, for whom an Habitation was provided, but none for him, no not a Place to lay his Head, and find Rest. What afterward became of this forward Professor we find not. Others that were Probationers of this Fellowship Jesus bound to a speedy Profession, not suffering one to go home to bid his Friends farewell, nor another so much as to bury his Dead.

By the Time that Jesus got to the Ship it was late, and he, heavy to sleep, slept soundly as Weariness and

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Innocence cou'd make him, insomuch that a violent Storm which then happen'd could not awake him; till, the Ship almost cover'd with the impetuous Fury and Dashings of the Waves, the Men already sunk in their Spirits, and the Ship ready to sink too, the Disciples awaked him, and called for Help, saying, *Master, carest not thou that we perish?* Jesus arising reprov'd their Infidelity, and commanding the Winds to be still, and the Seas peaceable, immediately there was a great Calm. This gave a fresh Surprize to all the People in the Ship, who seeing with what Authority he restrained the raging Winds and Waves, could not forbear asking who he was, though his Actions plainly denoted him a Person sent from God, and indued with divine Power.

The Storm thus appeased, they presently arriv'd in the Land of the (c) *Gerasens*, or *Gadarens*. Near to the City of *Gadara* there were many Sepulchres in the Holowness of the Rocks, where the Dead were buried, and where many superstitious Persons us'd the *Memphitick* and *Theffalick* Rites, invoking evil Spirits. At the very Instant of our Saviour's Arrival in the Country there met him (d) two possessed with Devils from these Tombs, exceeding fierce, which had been so for a long time, and so infested those Parts that no Man durst pass that Way. As soon as they saw the holy Jesus approach they cry'd out, *Jesus, thou Son of God, what have we to do with thee, art thou come to torment us before our* (e) *Time?* But

(c) *Gerasens*. St. Matthew, Ch. 8. v. 28. calls them so; but St. Mark, Ch. 5. v. 1. and St. Luke, Ch. 8. v. 26. calls them *Gadarens*; the reason of which is their lying near together. The Word *Gergesenes* or *Gerasens* was the remaining Name of an extinct People, being one of the Nations whom the Sons of *Jacob* drove from their Inheritance. In this Land there were two Cities; *Gadara* from the Tribe of *Gad*, to whom it fell by Lot in the Division of the Land, (which having been destroyed by the *Jews*, was rebuilt by *Pompey* at the Request of *Demetrius Gadarensis*, *Pompey's* freed-man;) and near it was *Gerasa*, as *Jose-*

*phus* reports. Which Diversity of Towns and Names is the cause of the various Recitation of this Story by the Evangelists,

(d) Two. St. Mark, Ch. 5. v. 1. and St. Luke, Ch. 8. v. 27. mentions but one Man; St. Matthew, Ch. 8. v. 28. mentions two; which Difference has little Weight in it, if any: For St. Matthew naming two says the Truth, and the others, which name but one, do not deny that there were more. Besides, St. John, Ch. 21. v. 25. says, the Evangelists do not pretend to write all that was done by Christ, for the World then could not contain all the Books of his Acts.

(e) *Time*. That is, before the Time

But Jesus immediately shews his Power over them, by commanding the Devils out of the possessed Persons. There was no room to dispute his Authority, they must out of the poor Wretches, whom they had so long possessed and tortur'd, and seek another Habitation.

At that Time there were certain Men feeding (f) Swine, which though extremely abominated by the Jewish Religion, yet for the Use of the Roman Armies, and quartering of Soldiers, they were permitted, and divers Privileges granted to the Masters of such Herds. The Devils therefore besought Jesus that he would not send them into the eternal Abyss, but permit them to enter into the Swine; which he grants, and the Swine immediately ran down a steep Place into the Lake of *Genesareth*, and perished in the Waters: revenging hereby, as they in their Diabolical Cunning and Malice thought, their being dispossessed of Man, whom they delight to torment and destroy, and so exasperate the Inhabitants against our Lord for the Loss of their Swine, that they should neither entertain him nor his Gospel; which at that Time in part did so fall out; for this Accident so troubled the Inhabitants, that they came and intreated Jesus to depart their Country. These were some of those who were not worthy of the great Blessing the Presence of the Son of God brought with him, and therefore he takes them at their Word; for he immediately leaves Heathen *Galilee*, and comes to the lesser *Galilee*, and so again to the City of *Capernaum*, where he was met by several Scribes and Pharisees, who came from *Galilee*. And while they were sitting in a House, which was so incompassed with Multitudes that no Business or Necessities could be admitted at the Door, a poor Paralytick was brought by four

of the last Judgment, when they are eternally punished; till then they remain in the airy Region. Thus St. *Augustin de civitate Dei*.

(f) *Swine*. Though it was contrary to the Custom of the Jews to keep Swine; yet the City of *Gadara* being a Greek City, and inhabited chiefly by

Greeks and Syrians, and for the Necessities of the Roman Soldiers, it is no way strange, that Swine were kept there. Besides, this City of *Gadara* is by *Josephus* reckoned among the Greek Cities which *Pompey* took from the Jews, and consequently but few, if any Jews at that Time inhabited there.

Men

**ST MARK CHAP. V.** All the devils be<sup>10</sup>  
fought **JESUS**, saying, Send us into the Swine.



**ST MARK 5 Verse 13. 54.**

*And the unclean spirits went out, & entred  
into the Swine, & the herd ran violently down  
a steep place into the Sea etc.*



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Ment to the House, where being denied Entrance by the vast Crouds that throng'd about the Door, their earnest Zeal and Hope soon furnish'd them with Means to approach the heavenly Physician ; for they uncover the Roof of the House, and let the sick Man down in his Bed with Cords in the midst before Jesus, as he was conferring with the Doctors. He knew the Cause of this extraordinary manner of conveying this poor diseased Wretch to him, and being pleased with their Faith, he saith to the sick Man, *Son, be comforted, thy Sins are forgiven thee.* This Expression offended the Scribes and Pharisees, thinking it to be Blasphemy, and that none but God could forgive Sins ; wherefore the blessed Jesus, to verify his Absolution in proportion to their Understandings (for the *Jews* did believe that all Afflictions were Punishments for Sin, and that removing the Punishment was forgiving the Sin) to prove that his Sins were forgiven him, removed that which they supposed to be the Effect of his Sin, and by curing the Palsy prevented their further Murmur about the Pardon: *That ye might know,* says he, *that the Son of Man hath Power on Earth to forgive Sins,* he saith to the Sick of the Palsy, (g) *Arise, take up thy Bed and walk.* Immediately the Man arose up among them, and took up the Bed whereon he lay, and went forth before them all, insomuch that they were all amazed : And being fully convinced by ocular Demonstration, and satisfied according to their own Principles, they could no longer deny or disown that Power which God had so visibly bestowed on his blessed Son Jesus ; which struck them with Fear and Amazement, and inspir'd them all with the Spirit of Praise to thank and glorify God : which none did more joyfully than the reviv'd Paralytick, who all the Way he return'd to his own home praised God for his Mercy.

It was not long after the Performance of this mighty Cure that Jesus again walked toward the Sea, and as he pass'd on his Way thither, seeing *Matthew* the (h) *Publican*

(g) *Arise.* *Mat.* 9. 1. *Mark* 2. 1. *Luke* 5. 18.

(h) *Publican.* Though the Office of *Publican* among the *Romans* was very honourable ;

lican sitting at the (i) Receipt of Custom, he bad him follow him. *Matthew* no sooner hears the divine Summons but he obeys, readily quits his Office, and all those dazzling Heaps of Gold which command all Things else, but have not Power or Charms enough to bribe his longer Stay with them. *Matthew* being thus called, invites his Master to a Feast, to which he had also invited many of his Brethren Publicans, and others. But the Pharisees, when they saw that he eat with Publicans and Sinners (for so they called all besides themselves) murmur'd and whisper'd against Christ, and expostulated with his Disciples, why their Master and they would do that which was so contrary to the Jewish Law, namely, to eat and drink with Heathens, and those that conversed with them. But Jesus undertaking the Argument, gave so fair an Account of his Converse with these Persons, that the Objection turned to his Excuse: for therefore he conversed with them, because they were Sinners: And it was as if a Physician should be reproved for having so much to do with sick Persons: Therefore he was sent, not to call the Righteous, but Sinners to Repentance, to advance the Reputation of Mercy above the Rites of Sacrifice. They further urged the Practice of *John's* Disciples, who fasted often; but that the Disciples of Jesus did not fast. In Answer to which Jesus tells them, that the Case of his Disciples was the same with those to whom the Bridegroom was come in Person to espouse the Church; but that the Days should come when the Bridegroom should be taken from them, and that in those Days they should fast.

During this Interview and Argument between the blessed Jesus and the proud Pharisees, *Fairus*, a (k) Ruler

honourable; yet among both *Jews* and *Greeks*, the Name and Persons were odious, not only because they were Strangers, but because the *Jews* stood upon the Charter of their Nation, and Privilege of their Religion, that none of them should pay Tribute; and also because they exercised great Injustice and Oppression, having a Power unlimited,

(i) Receipt. The Greek Word *Tolnion*, signifies a Publican's Stall.

(k) Ruler. There was among the *Jews* the less and greater *Sanhedrin*, Consistory, *Mat. 5. 22*. The former consisting of twenty three Judges in every City, the latter of seventy two in *Jerusalem*. The greater *Sanhedrin* was made up of the Chief Priests and Elders

of the Synagogue, came to him, desiring him that he would help his Daughter, who lay now at the point of Death. He question'd not the Ability of the holy Jesus, but was confident that if he laid his Hand upon her she would recover. The Forwardness of *Jairus's* Faith claimed our Saviour's Compassion, who was always more ready to grant than we to ask: therefore he straightway went with him to his House; to which as he was going a Woman met him that had been diseased with an Issue of Blood twelve Years, without any Hope of Remedy from Art or Nature, and had consum'd her Fortune in Expectation of a Cure, but to no purpose. This Woman having heard of the many Miracles Jesus had wrought upon all diseased and demoniack Persons, upon the confident Persuasion of a holy and strong Faith, said, *If I might but touch his Clothes, I shall be whole.* The poor Woman came trembling, full of Hope and Reverence; and thinking that in the Croud she might not be perceived, she gently touch'd his Garment, and immediately her Distemper was healed. Jesus being sensible of some divine Emanation, which was the Cause of this Cure, turn'd about in the Press, and asked who touched him. Every one that was near look'd with Indifferency on this Question, it being altogether impossible but that in such a Croud many must touch him: But the poor Woman that had received the Benefit was most nearly affected; for fearing her Presumption had carried her too far in thus clandestinely stealing a Cure, as she thought, in great Disorder and Concern came to Jesus, and at his Feet declared the whole Truth of what had happen'd to her. Jesus with Joy and Compassion adds Comfort to her Trembling, bids her not fear; tells her that her Cure was the Effect of her Faith, and so dismisses her with the Blessing of Peace, and a Confirmation of her being perfectly healed, *Be whole of thy Plague*: And the Woman was made whole from that very Hour.

or Presbyters of the People, called often the People, *Judg. 5. 11.* They of the less the Elders of *Israel*, and the Scribes of Consistory were called Rulers, as here.

After



After the working of this Miracle Jesus hastens to the House of *Jairus*, from whence a Servant came and met them with the News of *Jairus's* Daughter's Death, desiring him to give Jesus no further Trouble; who, over-hearing what the Servant said, comforts *Jairus*, bids him not fear, but believe, and he should find the blessed Effects of Faith in the Recovery of his Daughter. *Jairus* joyfully attends our Saviour to his House, where they find the (1) Minstrels and other People very busily preparing for the Interment of the Ruler's Daughter, with Musick and other Solemnities for the Funeral. For which Jesus reproves them, saying, *Why make ye this a-do? weep not, but give Place; for the Maid is not dead, but sleepeth.* Then entering with the Parents into her Chamber, he approach'd her as to one that was asleep, and taking her by the Hand, he called, and awa-ken'd her from her seeming Sleep of Death; which struck her Parents with such Astonishment, that they could scarce believe their own Eyes: But Jesus, to confirm this Miracle, order'd them to give her something to eat, to convince them she was alive.

This Miracle thus happily perform'd to the Admi-ration and Content of the afflicted Parents, he leaves them to the Injoyment of the comfortable Fruits of it, strictly charging them to conceal it, hereby intending to make the Noise and Report of him less popular. But it is too natural to Humanity to desire most earnestly that from which we are most strictly restrain'd. The glad Parents, and other Witnesses of this Miracle, cannot conceal their Joy, which in gratitude for so great a Mercy they thought they were obliged to divulge.

And here it is to be observ'd, that, as if Time was to be one continued Series of Wonders of the holy Jesus, not a Day pass'd without some eminent Performances and Exertions of his Divinity: A single Instance in one Day or Place will not compleat his Fame, but each

(1) *Minstrels.* This Custom of ha-ving musical Instruments in Funerals crept in among the *Jews* but of later Days, and from the Rites and Ceremo-

nies of the *Gentiles*: For in the Old Testament there is no mention made of any such Solemnity and Custom.

ST MATTHEW CHAP. IX. A woman<sup>11</sup>  
 was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years



ST MATTHEW 9. Verse 20. 21.<sup>58</sup>  
*She came behind him, and touched the hem  
 of his garment. For she said within her self,  
 If I may touch his garment, I shall be whole.*

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ST MATTHEW CHAP. IX.<sup>42</sup>

The Rulers daughter restored to life.



ST MATTHEW 9. Verse <sup>59</sup>25.

*But when the people were put forth,  
JESUS went in, and took her by the  
hand, and the maid arose.*

Moment of Time, and every Place where he goes, must give Testimony of his divine Power and Virtue. He was no sooner departed from *Jairus*, but two blind Men address themselves to him for Help; first recognizing his Family, *Thou Son of David*, and then imploring his Aid, *Have mercy upon us.* Jesus commanding the blind Men to be brought to him, demands of them whether they had Faith enough to expect a Cure of their Blindness from him. To which they joyfully reply'd, they believ'd: And as a Testimony of his own Power, and their Faith, he touched their Eyes, proposing the Cure conditionally to them, *According to your Faith be it unto you.* The blessed Effects followed both; for immediately their Eyes were open'd, and they, who had long been depriv'd of the Blessing and Comfort of Light, joyfully now behold it; but with infinitely greater Satisfaction, when they see the true Light that came to enlighten the World.

This miraculous Cure is succeeded by another as great as the preceding, but of a different Nature; for as the Holy Jesus passed along, the People seeing the mighty Power whereby he had healed others, questioning not in the least his omnipotent Gift, bring to him a dumb Man possessed with a Devil, whom he forthwith dislodges, so much to the Wonder and Amazement of the Beholders, that they all unanimously acknowledge the like was never before seen in *Israel*; except the spiteful Pharisees, who being ready to burst with Envy, could hold no longer, but said he cast out Devils by the Help of the Prince of the Devils. This malicious and groundless Calumny our Blessed Lord wisely refutes, by turning their own Argument upon them: For says he, *How can Satan drive out Satan? Or if the whole Community of Devils make an Insurrection and Schism against one another, will they not soon be destroy'd?* By this the Malice of the Pharisees became a Contradiction, being in it self unreasonable; nothing being more sottish and ridiculous than for the Devil to divide his Kingdom, and consequently destroy

stroy his own Power. But this was but the first Eruption of their Malice: All the Year last past, which was the first Year of Jesus's Preaching, every thing was quiet, neither *Jews*, *Samaritans*, or *Galileans*, maligned his Doctrine or Person, but he preach'd undisturbed; for this was the Year which the Prophet *Isaiah* in his Prediction call'd the acceptable Year of the Lord.

## B O O K I V.

### *The second Year of Christ's publick Ministry.*

**T**HE first and peaceable Year of our Blessed Lord's Preaching being expired, there was a Feast of the *Jews*, and Jesus went up to *Jerusalem*. This Feast was the second *Passover* he kept after he began to preach. Being arrived at *Jerusalem*, he finds an impotent Person lying at the (m) *Sheep-Pool* of *Bethesda*, waiting till the (n) *Angel* at a certain Season should move the Waters, after which whoso-

(m) *Sheep-pool*. This Sheep-pool was the Place where the Sacrifices used to be washed; and *Bethesda*, a House of Mercy, so called in *Hebrew*, or an Hospital, where the sick lay to be cured. As to the Sheep-pool, there are many Conjectures about the medicinal Virtue. The Use of it in relation to Sheep was not for the washing of live Sheep there by such as brought them to be sacrificed, but the Carcasses or Entrails of them when they were slain: And this was done by the *Nethinim* (or inferior Officers) who delivered them to the Priests to be offer'd in the Temple: Which supposes this washing to be intermediate between the Slaying and Offering the Sacrifices, and to belong to all the Sacrifices, not the Sheep only. This was the Opinion of some, who gave this as the commonly assigned Reason of the divine healing Power that these Waters had, because the En-

trails of the Sacrifices were wash'd there. (n) *Angel*. The sick Person was to go into the Pool immediately upon the Moving or Troubling the Waters: which must signify, that just upon the Moving they had a Force, which soon cool'd or decay'd again by the Sinking of that which was stirred up, or by the Evaporating of it. All which, if it be a natural, and no miraculous Way of curing, it will be the more unlikely that the Word *Angel* should here signify an *Angel of God*. For it may easily be supposed that there was an Officer or Servant sent down by them that had any Skill in it, to trouble the Waters at a fit Time; and being a Messenger sent before, as it were, to prepare for the sick Man's coming after him, might well be called *Angelos*, not an *Angel*, but a Messenger, which the Word in *Greek* properly signifies.

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ST JOHN CHAP. V. 43  
 The Jews cavil at what JESUS had done.



ST JOHN 5. Verse 10. 61.  
*The Jews therefore said unto him that  
 was cured, It is the Sabbath day; it is not  
 lawful for thee to carry thy bed,*

ever stepped in first was cured of his Infirmary. The poor Man had labour'd thirty eight Years under this Distemper, and waited every Season for an Opportunity of getting first into the Pool, but still was prevented by some or other of the Hospital, who got in before him. Jesus seeing the poor Man lying under so many Years Disappointment, had Compassion on him, and asked him whether he would be made whole. The poor Cripple supposing he would have offered him his Assistance to get into the Pool, told him he had no body to help him into the Water. But Jesus meant him a more immediate Cure, for he commands him to rise, take up his Bed and walk. The Man is immediately made whole, and as his Heavenly Physician commanded, takes up his Bed, and prepares to walk to his Home. This Cure happen'd to be wrought upon a Sabbath; and therefore the *Jews* take Occasion from thence to quarrel with the Man that was cured, telling him that it being the Sabbath he could not answer carrying his Bed. But the poor Man highly pleased with, and intirely depending on the Power and Authority of the great Person that had cured him, tells the malicious *Jews*, That he that had cured him gave him Power to carry his Bed. They asked him who that was: But the Man knew not; for Jesus had withdrawn himself. Soon after Jesus sees the Man in the Temple, and no doubt suspecting or seeing something irregular in his Demeanor, gives him this preventive Admonition, *Behold thou art whole now; sin no more, lest a worse Evil happen unto thee.* The Man well knowing his Physician, tells the next *Jews* he met, that it was Jesus who had healed him; which so inrag'd them that they sought to slay him: For this Offence seem'd double to the *Jews*, both working a Cure, which they thought unlawful on the Sabbath, and also commanding the Man to carry his Bed. To this Exception of theirs against him, because he cured on the Sabbath, Jesus made this Reply: “(o) God my Father, from

(o) See *Jphn* 5. from v. 17. to the End of the Chapter.

“ whose

" whose Rest you take the Celebration of the Sabbath,  
 " did not so rest from all Work on the Sabbath, but  
 " that ever since he hath done Works of Providence,  
 " of Preservation and Mercy every Day: and why  
 " may not I his Son do so without Exception, my Fa-  
 " ther's Actions and mine being the same?" This the  
 " Jews, that knew the Son of God must be of the very  
 " Divine Nature, (as the Son is of the same Nature with  
 " his Father) and therefore equal with God, interpre-  
 " ted to be Blasphemy in him, whom they believed not  
 " to be the *Messias*, and therefore ought to be punished  
 " with Death. To this Exception of theirs against  
 " Christ, he answers, " Although I affirm my self to  
 " be the Son of God, and so am rightly concluded by  
 " you to be equal with my Father, yet this is far from  
 " being Matter of Impiety in me, far from opposing  
 " my self against God, for I do nothing but what is  
 " the exprefs Will of my Father; and therefore it was  
 " reasonable for me to \* say what I did, that my Fa-  
 " ther's Actions will justify me in doing the same.  
 " For out of the infinite Love my Father bears to  
 " me, he communicates all Things to me, and by tha:  
 " Means you are like to have greater Matter of Wond-  
 " der than the curing of this sick Man on the Sab-  
 " bath can amount to; for even to the raising of the  
 " Dead, (which is far greater than that of curing the  
 " Sick) my Father hath communicated his Power to  
 " me; and as my Father raiseth, so will I whomsoever  
 " I please: And for the Office of judging Angels and  
 " Men, my Father doth it not himself, but hath put  
 " all into the Son's Hand. According to this you  
 " must be great Hypocrites, to pretend that you ze-  
 " lously honour my Father, when you do despise and  
 " dishonour me, who am sent with this Power at this  
 " time on purpose to be honour'd by all Men, in the  
 " same manner as my Father is honour'd, that so I  
 " may work a Reformation among you. This is  
 " perfectly the Will of my Father, that I must tell you

\* Say, John 5. 17.

“ that on your hearkening at this time to me, and  
“ believing and entertaining my Doctrine as the Mes-  
“ sage of God, depends your eternal Well-being. I  
“ assure you, this Power, which God my Father hath  
“ given me at this time, extendeth to the greatest  
“ Things, even to raising the Dead out of their Graves  
“ which ye shall shortly see exercised by me : For as  
“ God hath of himself Power to give Life to any  
“ Thing, so hath he given this Power to me, and I have  
“ it. And as I am God, my Father hath given me  
“ all Power and Authority both now and hereafter.  
“ Wonder not at what I say ; for there shall certainly  
“ be a Time of general Resurrection for all the Dead,  
“ and an Essay thereof shall shortly be seen among  
“ you : And the Righteous shall have their Bodies  
“ and Souls united in Bliss, and the Wicked have al-  
“ so a Restitution of their Bodies to receive their Pu-  
“ nishment and Sentence. My Judgment is righteous  
“ and agreeable to the Method and Decree of my Fa-  
“ ther, that they that believe on me shall be saved,  
“ and they that reject me shall not. This my Father  
“ hath declared ; and therefore it is not seeking Ho-  
“ nour or Revenge to my self that I say or do this,  
“ but going according to the Prescript of my Father.  
“ Ye know there is another that beareth Witness of  
“ me ; and for a Proof thereof ye sent to *John*, who  
“ baptized me, when the Spirit descended on me ; and  
“ he saw it, and testified to you the Truth of it. He  
“ was *Elias*, being like Fire, and his Word like a  
“ burning Lamp, and for a while ye liked well to  
“ hear him ; but as soon as he testified of me, then  
“ ye presently rejected him. Ye look into and examine  
“ the Old Testament, whereon ye depend, and be-  
“ lieve, through the Performance of the Mosaical  
“ Law, ye shall have eternal Life ; but on Examinati-  
“ on ye will find all those Prophecies are Types, and  
“ fulfilled in me, and that all the Promises of Life  
“ there made have an Aspect on the Giver of Life.  
“ But these, though ye look on them as the Reposi-  
“ tory



" tory of your present and future Blifs, and though  
 " they direct you to me as the only Means to attain  
 " it, yet ye wilfully reject me, and consequently that  
 " Blifs. Alas! It is not your good Opinion or Ap-  
 " probation that I contend for, while I thus speak:  
 " Ye have not the Love of God in you, and therefore  
 " ye reject me. Do but consider the Unreasonable-  
 " ness of your Actions: I bring my Commission from  
 " God, and ye regard it not; yet if another without  
 " any Commission from God, a mere Counterfeit, in  
 " his own Name come and undertake to seduce you,  
 " (such as *Simon Magus*) what Multitudes of you  
 " *Jews* will follow him? 'Tis not possible you should  
 " believe a-right, that are so much in love with the  
 " Praise of Men, as to take him for a Prophet who  
 " hath no other Testimony of himself that he is so, but  
 " his own, or the Voice of other Men, and dare not  
 " believe on me; the Rulers for fear of the People,  
 " and the People for fear of the Rulers; and in the  
 " mean while both condemn the Favour and Appro-  
 " bation of God, and set his Testimony at nought,  
 " and reject me who come authoriz'd with it. 'Tis  
 " not so much I, to whom you have done this Affront,  
 " and therefore I shall not bring any Complaint a-  
 " gainst you before my Father; but it is your own  
 " Prophet *Moses*, on whom you pretend so much to  
 " depend, that will rise up in Judgment, and testi-  
 " fy against you. Had you believed *Moses*, that Pro-  
 " phet whom ye seem so much to value, his Predic-  
 " tions and typical Representations would have led you  
 " to believe on me, in whom they are all compleated.  
 " But if your own *Moses* cannot prevail with you, I  
 " can expect to carry no Weight or Authority with  
 " you.

Here was an excellent Admonition, mix'd with  
 Love and Reproach, Terror and Tendernefs; and  
 though the very worst that the *Jews* could then make  
 of it must needs terminate in their own Good, yet the  
 plainer he speaks, the more stupid and unintelligible  
 they

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ST MATTHEW CHAP. XII. <sup>14</sup>  
JESUS went on the Sabbath-day through the Corn.



ST MATTHEW 12 Verse 1. 65.

*And his disciples were an hungred, and  
began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat:  
But when the Pharisees saw it, they said*

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19. 31

they are; and the more fond he is in inviting them, the more obdurate and stubborn they are in rejecting him. Every Action, though tending to very considerable Relief and Advantage of some of them, still provokes them; and every Word, though express'd with the most divine Gospel-Accent, raises the Scandal higher: for in the (p) second Sabbath after the first, that is, in the first Day of unleavened Bread, which happen'd the next Day after their weekly Sabbath, the Disciples passing through the Fields, and pressed with Hunger, pluck'd some ripe Ears of Corn, and rubbing them in their Hands did eat them, to satisfy their craving Appetites. The malicious Pharisees greedily catch at every Occasion of quarrelling with him, or those that belong'd to him: Why do ye eat, say they to the Disciples, before the publick Service, which thing ought not to be done on Sabbath Days, especially on such a Day as this, the Feast of *Pentecost*? Our Saviour undertakes the Argument, and answers for his Disciples, putting them in mind what *David* did, and those that were with him, in the Case of Hunger, as this was, how he transgressed the Law of Holy Things; hereby offering to satisfy their Scruples, and to convince them that Works of Necessity are sometimes to be permitted, even to the Breach of a positive temporary Constitution or Law; and that Acts of Mercy are the best and most acceptable Methods of serving God upon any Day whatsoever, or any Part of the Day that is vacant to other Offices, and proper for a religious Festival.

But this was talking to the deaf Winds; neither Reason nor Religion will give them Satisfaction; they are so enraged that nothing but his Destruction will please. Therefore Jesus knowing the Wickedness of their

(p) *Second Sabbath, &c.* When any of the solemn yearly Feasts fell on the Sabbath-day, that Sabbath had a special extraordinary respect attributed to it, and was called sometimes a great Sabbath, and a great Day of Sabbath, *John* 19. 31. In the Morning therefore of the

Day of *Pentecost*, falling on a Sabbath-day, by which Conjunction that Day became an high Sabbath, this Dispute about the eating the Ears of Corn happen'd. This Feast of *Pentecost* in *Exod.* 23. 16. is called the Feast of Harvest.



Hearts, withdrew from *Jerusalem*, and returned to *Galilee*, whither the Scribes and Pharisees pursue him; their keen-scented Malice will not let him rest, but follows him where-ever he goes, observing every Action, especially whether he would prosecute that which they called the Profanation of their Sabbath, by doing Acts of Mercy upon that Day. Their Malice is soon gratified with an Opportunity: For entering into one of the Synagogues of *Galilee* upon the Sabbath, he cast his Eye upon a (q) Man whose Right-Hand was withered. Here was an Object offered to his Compassion, which never fail'd to exert it self, especially on such a deplorable Occasion. The quick-sighted Malice of his Enemies soon snatched at the Opportunity, and lest he should not answer their End, they start the Question first, asking him, Whether it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath-Day? Jesus knew their Thoughts, and had an Answer ready for them: but first confronts them with the Object, bidding the Man with the wither'd Hand to stand forth in the midst of the Assembly, that every one might see him. This Object was sufficient to move Pity in any but a Jewish Breast, and rather put the whole Congregation upon an Address and Petition of imploring Help from the Heavenly Physician upon this poor Wretch, than to make him an Occasion of insnaring and accusing him. Jesus therefore puts the Question home to them, making the Case partly their own: *Is it lawful, says he, on the Sabbath-Day to do Good, or to do Evil? To save Life, or to destroy it?* This was so apposite to the present Circumstance, and so convictive of their malicious Design upon him, that they had nothing to say for themselves. But Jesus pursues his Argument with a closer and more immediate Application to themselves: *Which of you, says he, shall have a Sheep fallen into a Pit on the Sabbath-Day, and will not lift it out? How much better then is a Man than a Sheep?* From whence he draws this plain Conclusion, *Wherefore*

(q) St. *Jerom* reports this Man to have been a Mason.

## Book IV. *the Four Gospels.*

67

*it lawful to do Good on the Sabbath-Day?* And knowing the Hardness of their Hearts, he waited not for an Answer, but hastens to the Relief of the poor Man, commanding him to stretch forth his Hand; which he did, and it was restored whole as the other. Upon this Act, being confirm'd in their Malice, the Pharisees went forth, and being with the (r) *Herodians*, they both conspire the Death of him who came to offer them eternal Life.

But hitherto their Malice could not reach him, he had not yet finished the Work his Father sent him to do: He therefore knowing their impious Designs on his Life, departs from thence again, and goes toward the Sea-Coast; the Numbers of People increasing where-ever he goes, as his Fame did; for he was now followed by new Multitudes from *Galilee*, from *Judea*, from *Jerusalem*, from *Idumea*, from beyond *Jordan*, from about *Tyre* and *Sidon*; who in all Quarters hearing the Report of his miraculous Power to cure all Diseases by the Word of his Mouth, the Touch of his Hand, or the Handling his Garment, came with their Sick and Possessed for Help, who pressed hard on him but to touch him, and they were all immediately cured of their Distempers. Nay, his Fame so increased, that the very Devils and unclean Spirits publicly confessed that he was the Son of God, till they were upon all Occasions restrained, and compelled to Silence.

The Multitude thronging from all Parts, and daily increasing, he commanded a Ship to be in readiness against any Inconvenience or troublesome Pressures of the People: After which he went up into a Mountain to pray, and continued in Prayer all Night, intend-

(r) *Herodians*. *Tertullian*, *Chrysostom*, *Jerom*, and several others very mistakenly say the *Herodians* were a Sect of People who said *Herod* was the *Messias*, because by a Decree of the *Roman Senate*, when the Sceptre departed from *Judah*, he was declared King. But it is very improbable that thirty Years after *Herod's* Death, there should be any of the Belief that *Herod* was the

*Messias*. The *Herodians* therefore here mentioned were Followers of *Herod*, in opposition to those that acknowledg'd and adher'd to the *Cæsarean* or *Roman* Authority, which the *Pharisees* generally look'd upon as an Usurpation. And yet the *Herodians* were not a distinct Sect from the *Pharisees* and *Sadduces*, as appears by comparing *Mat. 16. 16.* with *Mark 8. 15.*

ing to make the first Ordination of Apostles; which the next Day he did, chusing out of the Number of his Disciples these Twelve to be (s) Apostles, *Simon Peter* and *Andrew*, *James* and *John*, *Philip* and *Bartholomew*, *Matthew* and *Thomas*, *James the Son of Alphaeus*, and *Simon the Zealot*, *Judas the Brother of James*, and *Judas Iscariot*. Having chosen them, he instructs them in the mysterious Parts of his holy Doctrine; and seeing a great Multitude of People that were his constant Followers, he goes up into a Mountain, where in a more eminent Manner he sets upon his Prophetick Office, and addresses himself in general to the Apostles and the Multitude; pronouncing the Blessing of the Kingdom of Heaven to the humble and lowly; Comfort to those that mourn for their Sins; Protection and Security of Life to those that live quietly and meekly; a compleat and perfect Satiety to those blessed Appetites that spiritually hunger and thirst after Righteousness; Compassion and Mercy to those that are tenderly and pitifully affected towards the Miseries and Wants of the distressed; the beatifick Vision (or Sight of God) to those that have not defiled their Souls with fleshly Lusts and worldly Impurities; the Portion and Blessing of the Children of God to those that love and labour for Peace; the Martyr's glorious Crown to those that suffer for the Discharge of a good Conscience, and everlasting Praises to those that patiently bear the Calumnies and Reproaches of the wicked for Christ's sake.

Afterwards giving particular Instructions to his Apostles and Disciples, together with their Commissions, being now about to send them abroad, he says, "You

(s) *Apostles*. The Word *Apostle* in general signifies *Messenger*, or *sent*; in which Sense the *Jews* are said to have Apostles, whom they deputed to act as their Proxies or Deputies: Whence the *Jewish* Proverb, *Every Man's Apostle is as himself*; that is, is his Vicar or Proxy, and what he doth as valid as if the Person had done it himself. And in this Sense the Twelve after Christ's Departure had others, whom they sent to

act for them in their Charge, and whom they called their Apostles.

In an evangelical Sense the Word *Apostle* signifies primarily that Office whereunto the Twelve were set apart by Christ immediately; as also that of *St. Paul* and *Barnabas*, sent by the especial Appointment of the Holy Ghost, *Acts* 13. 2. Secondly, it belonged to some others after, that received the like Commission from the Twelve, or *St. Paul*.

" my

“ my Disciples, and all Christians, are the Salt of the  
“ Earth ; ye are those that by your Doctrine, exem-  
“ plary Piety, and Charity, are to keep the World from  
“ putrefying : But if your Lives grow unsavoury by  
“ corrupt Living, ye will be the most unprofitable, con-  
“ temptible Creatures in the World ; will be the Re-  
“ fuse of the Earth, and dealt with accordingly. Ye  
“ are the Light of the World, like a City set on a Hill,  
“ which is seen by all that travel near it, and by them  
“ inquired after what it is ; so the Church of Christ,  
“ which is a most conspicuous Society, cannot fail be-  
“ ing taken notice of by the rest of the World, and ei-  
“ ther attract them by their good, or discourage them  
“ by their bad Examples. It is my Design in you to set  
“ up a Torch or Luminary, that by the Doctrine which  
“ ye shall preach, and the exemplary Lives ye are to  
“ lead, ye shall direct all others in the Actions of their  
“ Lives. Let your Light therefore so shine before  
“ Men, that you may recommend all others to the Prac-  
“ tice of your honest, honourable and pious Actions.  
“ I come not to take any Thing away from the moral  
“ Duties prescrib’d in the Law, or by the Prophets,  
“ but to repair and make up whatsoever is wanting ;  
“ to restore what hath been taken from it by false In-  
“ terpretations ; and to increase and add to the Law  
“ till the World be destroyed, and all Things come to  
“ an End ; no one least Particle shall be taken from the  
“ Law, or lose its Force and Obligation. Whosoever  
“ by his Practice or Doctrine goes about to evacuate  
“ any one of the least Commands of the Law, he shall  
“ be thought unworthy of having his Name registred  
“ in the Catalogue of Christians here, or Saints here-  
“ after. But whosoever shall practise and teach others  
“ the Duties of it, shall be advanc’d to the Dignity of  
“ judging others, and to the Glory attending it in  
“ Heaven. Except your Righteousness shall exceed  
“ the ordinary Practice of the Scribes and Pharisees,  
“ ye shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. *Moses*  
“ delivered to the *Jews*, that they should commit no



" Murder, and that he who did should be obnoxious  
 " to capital Punishment : But I say, the Law is short  
 " in this, for whoever is angry with his Brother (t)  
 " without a Cause, or calls him *Racha*, or Fool, shall  
 " be in danger of Judgment, or of the Council, or of  
 " Hell-fire. Presume not to approach the Altar with  
 " thy Peace-offering, unreconciled to thy Brother. Be  
 " not litigious, lest thy Adversary accuse thee before  
 " the Judge, and thou be cast into Prison. The Law  
 " forbids Adultery, but I say, he that looks lustfully on  
 " a Woman, that gazes intemperately on a beautiful  
 " Face, though he satisfies not his Flesh, yet by that very  
 " lustful Look, hath for his part made himself guilty of  
 " Adultery on her. Thou hadst better be without thy  
 " Hand or thy Eye (though never so useful Instruments  
 " of Nature) than to be ensnared by them. Thou  
 " shalt not put away thy Wife but for Fornication,  
 " otherwise thou makest her commit Adultery. All  
 " voluntary Swearing, though by the meanest Thing  
 " or Creature, is interdicted thee; and in thy com-  
 " mon Conversation thou shalt use no more than a bare  
 " Affirmative or Negative, Yea, or No. Oppose not  
 " Violence to the injurious Man, but whoever shall  
 " use thee contumeliously, (v) bear it patiently : Pa-  
 " tience for the present, and Dependance on God's  
 " Providence for the future, do best become a Christi-  
 " an. If any one by Suit at Law shall endeavour to  
 " rob thee of thy meaner or inner Garment, do thou

(t) *Without a Cause.* The Prophets and Apostles, and Jesus Christ himself, in citing the Writings of Moses, do seldom or never express his very Words, thinking it sufficient to give the true Sense or Meaning of them. Thus Moses commands, *to serve the Lord*, but our Saviour makes no scruple to add the Word *only*, which is likewise to be extended to the Precept of worshipping him, as the Devil himself did acknowledge. Nay, it is sometimes absolutely necessary, for making up a compleat Sense, to supply some Words which have gone before, or follow after. As when our Saviour in this place says, *Be not angry with thy*

*Brother without a Cause*, and afterwards in the same Verse forbids to call him *curst Wretch*, or *Racha*, that is, to give him ill or reproachful Names, it is plain that we are to add *without a Cause*. For our Saviour himself, whose Life was a Comment upon his Doctrine, was often angry, and treated the Pharisees and Sadducees more than once with the worst of Names, calling them *blind*, *Fools*, *whited Sepulchres*, *Hypocrites*, and *Children of the Devil*; which he cannot be supposed to do without a Cause.

(v) *Bear.* To turn the Cheek is a proverbial Saying, and signifies bea-

" rather

“ rather than oppose Violence to his Injustice, suffer  
 “ the Loss of thy upper better Garment : And who-  
 “ ever shall make thee (*w*) go and carry his Burden a  
 “ little Way, do thou again, rather than permit thy  
 “ Passion to oppose Violence to this Injury, or light  
 “ Invasion of thy Liberty, suffer as much more. Do not  
 “ proudly or disdainfully turn away from him that asks  
 “ a Favour of thee. *Moses’s* Precept indeed concern-  
 “ ing the kind Dealing of the *Jews* with other Men,  
 “ extended not universally to all, but peculiarly to  
 “ their own Countrymen and fellow-*Jews* (called the  
 “ Sons of thy People) but to (*x*) Aliens and Enemies  
 “ they were not bound to be kind ; but I say unto  
 “ you, love your Enemies, return Blessings and Pray-  
 “ ers for Curses and Reproaches ; for if you have or-  
 “ dinary Charity for them that have the same to you,  
 “ what Reward can ye expect from God for so doing?  
 “ The worst Sort of Men in the World will do so ;  
 “ and ye do not distinguish your selves from the com-  
 “ mon People. Therefore I require of you that will be  
 “ my Disciples, that you exercise your Charity, whe-  
 “ ther of the lowest or highest Sort, and extend it as  
 “ far as the Mercy of God is extended, to Enemies as  
 “ well as Friends, that in so doing you may be (*y*)  
 “ perfect, as your Father in Heaven is perfect.

“ Be not charitable for the sake of Applause, for  
 “ thereby you will lose the Reward which God in  
 “ Heaven hath laid up for the Almsgiver. But when  
 “ thou doest any Act of Mercy, do it not vainglorious-  
 “ ly but privately, and thou wilt certainly enjoy the  
 “ Reward of thy secret Piety, which God will openly  
 “ bestow on thee in the Sight of Men and Angels.

(*w*) Go. What we render *go a Mile*,  
 is a *Persian* Word and Custom, which  
 signifies to take up Men, as we take up  
 Horses to carry our Burdens from Stage  
 to Stage ; which when one hath perfor-  
 med, another is taken up in his stead  
 for the next Stage.

(*x*) Aliens. The *Jews* were so far  
 from being oblig’d by the Law of *Moses*

to be kind or friendly to Foreigners,  
 that they were commanded to treat the  
 Seven Nations in an hostile Manner.

(*y*) Perfect. To imitate or equal God  
 in all Things is impossible, and in some  
 Things presumptuous ; and in Acts of  
 Mercy, Charity, and the like, we are  
 expressly commanded to imitate him, as  
 far as human Nature will permit.

“ When thou addressest thy self to God in Prayer,  
 “ affect not popular Hypocrisy, in exposing thy self to  
 “ the View of the Multitude, that thou mayst be ad-  
 “ mired of them ; but retire from worldly Company  
 “ into thy Closet, and with thy Door shut to thee,  
 “ pray to thy heavenly Father thus in secret, who,  
 “ though he be invisible, yet seeth thee, and will pub-  
 “ lickly reward thy private Devotion. Avoid vain  
 “ Repetitions, and lengthen not thy Prayers with idle  
 “ Tautologies, after the manner of the Heathens, who  
 “ think they shall have their Prayers granted for the  
 “ Multiplicity of Words used by them in their Devo-  
 “ tions. Be not therefore like them, for your Father  
 “ hath no need of your Instructions to tell him your  
 “ Wants, and is not likely to be wrought on by the  
 “ Length of your Prayers. I will therefore set you a  
 “ Pattern, after which you shall form your Prayers.  
 “ When ye pray, say, (z) Our Father which art in  
 “ Heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom  
 “ come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Hea-  
 “ ven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And for-  
 “ give us our Debts, as we forgive our Debtors. And  
 “ lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from  
 “ Evil ; for thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and  
 “ the Glory, for ever. *Amen.*

“ Imitate not the Hypocrites in (a) Fasting, who  
 “ put on mournful Looks, and appear in foul Gar-  
 “ ments, that they may be thought to be in earnest ;  
 “ but behave thy self as upon another Day, that thou  
 “ appear not unto Men to fast, but unto God.

“ Lay not up any worldly Treasure, which is lia-  
 “ ble either to Rust, Vermin, or Thieves ; but lay up  
 “ Treasure in Heaven, where it will be for ever safe.

(z) *Our Father.* This Prayer is dis-  
 tinct from that in St. Luke 11. 2. for this  
 in St. Mat. 6. 9. is part of Christ's fa-  
 mous Sermon on the Mount ; but that in  
 St. Luke upon a special Motion of the  
 Disciples, at a time when he had done  
 praying ; who seeing him often retire to  
 pray, desired him to give them a Form

of Prayer, which they might constantly  
 use, as *John Baptist* had given to his  
 Disciples. This Prayer in St. Matthew  
 was in the second Year after Christ's  
 Baptism, that in St. Luke in the third.  
 (a) *Fasting.* The Jews anointed and  
 washed themselves every Day, except  
 in time of mourning.

“ Where

“ Where Covetousness hath taken Possession, there is  
 “ nothing but Darkness ; for Liberality and Charity  
 “ are extinguished by it ; and that which tends to  
 “ the Increase of Riches, cannot be reconcilable with  
 “ the Service of God.

“ Be not anxious or solicitous for the future ; it is  
 “ doubting of God’s Providence, which will not fail  
 “ to supply our Necessities, if we trust in him. The  
 “ Fowls of the Air are a great instance of his Care,  
 “ who provide nothing, and yet enjoy every Thing.

“ Be not hasty in judging others, lest thou fall un-  
 “ der their more severe Censure. Why shouldst thou  
 “ reflect so sharply on the Faults of others, who art  
 “ more liable to their Censure for thy own Follies ?  
 “ Be cautious in reproving the incorrigible, who will  
 “ be apt to reproach thee for thy charitable Love, as  
 “ (b) Swine undervalue precious Jewels, and Dogs  
 “ bite those that feed them. Apply yourselves to  
 “ God in Prayer for what you want, which will be a  
 “ sure Way of obtaining it. Enter in at the strait  
 “ Gate ; let all your Care be to set yourselves upon  
 “ the Christian Course, be it ever so strict (for it is  
 “ easy to enter on a vicious Course, and go through  
 “ with it, and there are Multitudes that pass that  
 “ Way to eternal Destruction). But the Gate that  
 “ leadeth to Life being strait, there will be need of all  
 “ your Care, because the Entrance and whole Course  
 “ of a Christian’s Life is made up of perfect Strictness,  
 “ in opposition to the Looseness of the World ; and  
 “ that makes so few to chuse it.

“ Beware of false Prophets and Teachers, who pre-  
 “ tend the greatest Innocence and Meekness, but de-  
 “ sign the contrary. Ye will discover them by their  
 “ Practices : For when they have gained some Es-  
 “ teem with you, they will endeavour to corrupt you.

“ They that in Words take upon them to be the  
 “ only Servants, Sons and Saints of God, as Here-  
 “ ticks and Schismatics ordinarily do, yet these

(b) Mat. 7. 6.



“ Words of theirs, and their confident calling on God,  
 “ are not such Fruits by which you can judge well of  
 “ them; for it is not every one that believeth on me,  
 “ who acknowledgeth me, or looketh for Salvation  
 “ from me. At the Day of Judgment many will say  
 “ to me, Lord, we are the Men whom thou by thy  
 “ Power hast enabled to cast out Devils, and do all  
 “ kind of Miracles. But I shall tell such, I never  
 “ knew them.

“ Whosoever believeth and entertaineth all these  
 “ Things contained in this Sermon, and practiseth  
 “ them, he is like a prudent Builder, who laid the  
 “ Foundation of his House upon a Rock, which Wind  
 “ and Weather could no way affect with Injury or  
 “ Damage. But he that heareth these Things, and  
 “ practiseth them not, shall by all Men be reputed to  
 “ be like the Man who built his House upon the Sand,  
 “ which was soon blown down by the stormy Winds,  
 “ and washed away by the Floods.”

Our blessed Lord having finished his Sermon on the Mount, the People were astonished at him, for he delivered his Doctrine with extraordinary Authority and Power, prophetick at least, (which since the Prophet *Malachi's* Time had been interrupted) and not with that Indifference as was practis'd by the Doctors of the Law among the *Jews*.

Nor did the Multitudes resort to him only for the sake of his Doctrine, but also of the miraculous Cures, which he daily wrought among them; which had so spread and increas'd his Fame, that all that were afflicted with any Disease or Malady, if they could but approach him, doubted not of a Cure. Among the admiring Crouds which continually flock'd about him, a poor leprous Wretch all over crusted with Ulcers, threw himself at the Feet of the Divine Physician, imploring his Help, and with a faithful Assurance depending on his Ability to restore him to his Health, if he would be pleas'd to make use of his Power. Our Saviour looking on the poor Leper with Pity, confirms  
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ST MATTHEW CHAP. VIII. <sup>15</sup>  
JESUS healeth the Centurions servant.



ST MATTHEW 8. Verse 5. 6. 75.

*When Jesus was entred into Capernaum,  
there came unto him a Centurion, beseeching  
him, and saying, Lord, my servant etc.*

7.<sup>d</sup> S. aft. Epiph. Pl. 2.<sup>d</sup>

his Faith by an instant Cure ; at the same time commanding him to make an Acknowledgment of the great Blessing he had receiv'd, by addressing himself to the Priest, as the Law prescrib'd, and to offer the Offering required of all such as are thus cleansed of Leprosy. This our Saviour said to him with Design, that it might by this Means be a Testimony to assure them that he was the *Messias*, that he was God, and that he opposed not the Law given by *Moses*, but came to fulfill it. The joyful Leper in a willing Obedience retires, and our Blessed Lord enters *Capernaum*, which he makes a fresh Scene of his miraculous Performances : for he is no sooner discovered to be in any Place, but immediate Application is made to him for his divine Assistance and further Demonstration of his Power.

In *Capernaum* the Holy Jesus received the Address of a faithful (c) Centurion, or Captain, in behalf of his favourite Servant, who was grievously afflicted with the Palsy. Our Blessed Lord, always as ready to relieve, as we to ask, proposeth to the Centurion the Honour of his immediate Presence to visit his Servant ; which the faithful Commander in all Humility declines ; and being unwilling to give him the Trouble of coming in Person, desires only his sacred Fiat, the Word of Command, and he firmly believed the Cure perform'd. For through Strength of Faith he was assured of the Excellency and Divinity of his Saviour ; and therefore, though himself was a Man in Power, he thought it too great an Honour for his earthly Habitation to be visited by the great Saviour of the World. (d) Jesus with Pleasure and Admiration observing the believing Captain, turns to his Disciples, to whom he with much Earnestness of Asseveration expresses himself, assuring them, that he had not found any Jew so fully persuaded of his Power, as this *Gentile* Centurion. But this which is now so very admirable,

(c) Centurion. He was a Captain quartered in *Judea*.

(d) See *Mat.* 8. 10, 11, 12, &c.



will within a short Time be frequently exemplified for Multitudes shall come in from all parts of the World, and believe in Christ, and shall sit down with *Abraham*, and the rest of the Patriarchs of the Jewish Nation; but the *Jews* themselves, to whom the *Messias* was primarily sent, will disbelieve, and be punished accordingly; they will be shut out of the Church here, and Heaven hereafter. Then turning to the Centurion, who with Joy and Patience heard Jesus talking, he pronounces the Servant cured, and dismisses the Master of him, to the Injoyment of that Satisfaction which his Faith had procured him. The miraculous Cure was in proportion to his Faith; for returning, he found upon Inquiry, that his Servant recovered the same time that Jesus had declared it. Thus the Servant received the Blessing of Health, as the Reward and Honour of his Master's Faith.

From *Capernaum* Jesus passing through *Galilee* attended with a great Multitude of People, as he came near the Gates of *Naim*, is met by a Crowd as numerous as his own, mournfully attending the dead Corps of an only Son of a Widow, by which Loss the poor Mother was deprived of all worldly Comfort. Here was a proper Object for the Divinity to exercise it self upon, and to which our Blessed Saviour's Compassion readily prompted him. To comfort the weeping Parent therefore, he approaches the Bier, bids the Widow forbear weeping, and commands the Bearers to stop, when with his powerful Word and Touch, he raises the young Man to Life; who sitting up in the Bier spake to the Company, to convince them that he was brought to Life again. To restore decayed Health, and dispossess Devils and impure Spirits, were Acts of Wonder to all that saw them; but to recover defunct Nature, and to recall it from the Hands of Death, was so stupendous a Prodigy, as struck the Beholders not only with Amazement, but Fear: for they glorified God for visiting his People, by sending a great Prophet among them; justly concluding from the

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ST MATTHEW CHAP XI <sup>16</sup>  
JESUS speaketh concerning John.



ST MATTHEW <sup>11</sup> Verse 7 <sup>77.</sup>  
*What went ye out into the wilder-  
ness to see? A Reed Shaken with the  
wind.*

the Grandness of the Action, that nothing but an Almighty Power could do such Things.

Upon the Fame of this and other Miracles, which soon spread through all *Judea*, *John* the Baptist, who was still in Prison, sent two of his Disciples to him, to minister Occasions of his greater Publication, inquiring if he were the *Messias*, or whether they were to expect another? At the very Time of their asking this Question, for their clearer Conviction and Proof of his being the *Messias*, (e) *Jesus* perform'd many Miracles in their Presence, curing many of their Infirmities and Plague, and of evil Spirits, and unto many that were blind he gave Sight. To these Messengers therefore of *John* he return'd no Answer, but a Demonstration of the Nature of the Thing, and the Glory of the Miracles, saying, *Return to John and tell him what you see; for the Deaf hear, the Blind see, the Lame walk, the Dead are raised, the Lepers are cleansed, and to the Poor the Gospel is preached.* All which were the grand characteristick Notes of the *Messias*, according to the Predictions of the holy Prophets.

Our Blessed Saviour having dismissed *John's* Disciples with this Answer, began to speak concerning *John*, giving a large Encomium of the Austerity and Holiness of his Person, the Greatness of his Function, and Divinity of his Commission: Saying that he was greater than a Prophet, a burning and shining Light, the *Elias* that was to come, and the Consummation and Ending of the old Prophets: Adding withal, that the Perverseness of that Age was most notorious in the Entertainment of himself and the Baptist: For neither could the Baptist, who came neither eating nor drinking (that by his Austerity and mortified Deportment he might invade the Judgment and Affections of the People) nor *Jesus*, who came both eating and drinking (that by a moderate and affable Life, fram'd to the common Use and Compliance of Men, he might sweetly insinuate into the Affections of the Multitude) ob-

(e) See *Luke* 7. 21, 22, &c.



tain Belief amongst them. The obstinate *Jews* objected against every Thing, and nothing could please them. But Wisdom and Righteousness had a Theatre in her own Family, and is justified of all her Children.

Then he proceeds to a more applied Reprehension of *Chorazin*, *Bethsaida*, and *Capernaum*; telling the two first, that if the mighty Works which were done in them by him, had been done in *Tyre* and *Sidon*, (two Heathen Cities) they would long ago have repented, and therefore the Judgment or Punishment which befalls mere Heathen Cities, shall be easier than what they could expect. And thou *Capernaum*, says he, the Place of my Abode, which hast been so honoured and favoured by me, beyond all other Places, and hast received such spiritual Advantages, shalt be brought to Destruction suddenly, humbled as low as thou wast highly advanced; for if the Miracles done in thee with design to reform thee, had been done in *Lot's* Time for the reforming *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*, they would have prevented their Destruction by a speedy Repentance.

Having thus severely reprehended the three Cities for their pertinacious continuing in their Sins and infidelity, in Defiance and Reproof of all the mighty Works which had been wrought in them, he takes occasion at the same time (probably from that of his being received by the meaner, and refused by the higher Sort) to break out into an affectionate Expression of Thanks to God, that those Mysteries of the Gospel which the wise Men of the World despised (and were thereupon given up by God to their own wilful Blindness) were yet by him revealed to the most ignorant and mean; by this denoting, that God had so disposed the Way to Heaven, that the most ignorant and humble, not the most proud and elated, were most ready to receive and imbrace it. This, said the Blessed Jesus, is an Act of thy free and undeserved Mercy to some O Lord, and of thy just Desertion to others. Then he concludes this Sermon with an Invitation to all People wearied and disconsolate, loaden with Sin and Misery.

Misery, to come to him, promising Ease to their Burdens and Refreshment to their Weariness, and to exchange their heavy Pressures for an easy Yoke and a light Burden.

The Holy Jesus having ended this Sermon, a certain wealthy Pharisee, named *Simon*, invited him to dine with him: into whose House being entred, a (f) Woman that had liv'd in a sinful and scandalous Course of Life, abiding there in the City, heard of it. She came to Jesus in the Pharisee's House; not to glut her Eyes with the Sight of a miraculous and glorious Person, but in Remorse and Regret for her Sins. She came to the Blessed Jesus to lay her Burden at his Feet; and as he lay along, she came behind him that lay next to Jesus, and standing there, let fall some Drops of Tears upon his Feet, Effects of her Sorrow and Love; and stooping down, wiped them with no other Towel than that of her own Hair: Then she fell down and kissed his Feet, and poured a Box of Ointment upon them. This Action was a perfect Ecstasy of Love, Sorrow and Adoration; a festival Ceremony, becoming the Majesty of the greatest earthly Monarch.

Whilst this poor Sinner was busy in the Expressions of her Religion and Veneration to Jesus, *Simon* his Host, in whom something of the perverse peevish Pharisee still appear'd, thought with himself, that Jesus could not be a Prophet; otherwise he would have known this Woman to be a (g) Sinner, and not have suffer'd her to touch him. Which Jesus knowing, (for he understood his Thoughts as well as his Words) he

(f) Woman. This Woman was *Mary Magdalen*. She had been married to a noble Personage, a Native of the Town and Castle of *Magdal*, from whence she took her Name of *Magdalen*, though she herself was born in *Bethany*. She was a Widow, and being prompted by her Wealth, Liberty and Youth, to an intemperate Life, and too free Entertainments, had become very scandalous.

(g) Sinner. Though the Jewish Religion did permit Harlots of their own

Nation to live and enjoy the Privileges of their Nation, except that their Oblations were refused; yet the Pharisees, who pretended to a greater Degree of Sanctity than others, would not admit them to civil usages, or the Benefits of ordinary Society; and thought Religion itself, and the Honour of a Prophet, was concern'd in the Interests of the same Superciliousness: And therefore *Simon* the Pharisee made this Objection within himself.

immediately

immediately makes an Apology for the Woman and himself, in a civil Question expressed in a Parable of two Debtors, to whom a greater and a less Debt respectively were forgiven; both of them concluding, that they would love their Creditor in proportion to his Mercy in forgiving their Debts. In this Parable, Jesus gave the Reason of this Woman's extraordinary Expression of Love and Grief, and an Account of not rejecting her. Then applying it to the Woman, he reproaches his Host by distinguishing between his and the Woman's Entertainment; concluding the Parable with Forgiveness proportionable to her Sins; for she, who loved much, had much to be forgiven. This was so home and plain upon the proud Pharisee, that he might therein read his own Incivilities and inhospitable Entertainment, when it stood confronted with the Magnificency of *Mary Magdalen's* Penance and Charity. Dinner being over, Jesus dismisses the penitent Woman with this Blessing: *This great and affectionate Expression of thy extraordinary Faith is rewarded with a free Pardon of all thy Sins: Go, and live as thou oughtest to do for the rest of thy Life, and God's Favour and all Happiness be with thee.*

After this, Jesus attended with the Twelve, with *Mary Magdalen, Joanna, Susanna,* and many others, who supplied him with Necessaries out of their own Possessions, went through the whole Country, preaching the glad Tidings of the Kingdom of God: And coming into an House with a Design to eat, he was so crowded by the People that he could not; and therefore he disposed himself to dispense his Time to the Necessities of those that stood in need of his Help. Of which there were many and daily Instances, and with one of which he was presented in the Person of a poor Demoniac, possessed with a blind and dumb Devil; in whose behalf his Friends intreated Jesus that he would cast out the Devil: Which he immediately did, and the blind Man saw, and the dumb spake so much to the Amazement of the People, that the

ran in so prodigious Companies after him, and so scandalized the Pharisees, who thought that by the means of this Prophet, their Reputation would be lessen'd, and their Schools empty, that first a Rumour was scatter'd up and down from an uncertain Ground, but communicated with Tumult and apparent Noises, that Jesus was beside himself. Upon which Rumour, his Friends and Kindred came together to see, and to make some Provisions accordingly. When the Mother of Jesus and his Kindred came, they found him in an House, incircled with a Croud of People full of Wonder and Admiration. And there it was that the Holy Virgin-Mother might hear Part of her own Prophecy literally verified, *That the Generations of the Earth should call her Blessed*: For a Woman worshipping Jesus, cry'd, *Blessed is the Womb that bare thee, and the Paps that gave thee suck*. To this Jesus replied, not denying her to be highly Blessed, who had received the Honour of being the Mother of the *Messias*; but advancing the Dignities of Spiritual Excellencies far above the greatest Temporal Honour in the World, he says; *Yea, rather blessed are they that hear the Word of God and perform it*.

Our Blessed Saviour being still in the House, they told him that his Mother and his Brethren stay'd without for him; upon which he told them, those Relations were less than the Ties of Duty and Religion: For the dear Names of Mother and Brother, which are sanctified by the Laws of God and Nature, are made far more sacred when a Spiritual Kindred does supervene. And therefore Christ, to signify this Office of his to declare the Will of his Father, to be dearer to him than all Relations, and withal to shew, that Obedience to God was above all Things most welcome to him, he tells them, that natural and secular Respects sway not with him in comparison of the gaining Profelytes to Heaven. And turning to his Disciples said, *Behold my Mother and my Brethren*; subjoining for a Reason, *Whosoever doth the Will of my Father which*



is in Heaven, becomes thereby the Child of God, and consequently by that means the Brother and Sister of Christ; on whom he setteth a greater Value, than paying a Civility to those, who are in carnal Respects nearer to him.

The Pharisees, who were always pickeering for Occasions of finding fault with our Blessed Lord, seeing him continue doing Miracles, and especially dispossessing Devils, renew the old Quarrel; He casteth out Devils by *Beelzebub*. Which senseless Objection Christ having confuted, he charg'd them highly upon the Guilt of an unpardonable Crime; telling them that their so charging those Actions of his, which he perform'd in the Virtue of the Divine Spirit, was a Sin against the Holy Ghost. And however they might make bold with the (h) Son of Man, and that Prevocations against his Words, or Injuries to his Person might upon Repentance and Baptism find a Pardon; yet it was a Matter of greater Consideration to sin against the Holy Ghost, for that would find no Pardon here, or hereafter: And taking Occasion upon this and other Occasions of reprehending the Jews for their Obstinacy and Ingratitude, he, by a mysterious and ingenious Parable, gives the World great Caution against lapsing and backsliding after Repentance: "To you (says he) that having receiv'd such Means of converting and bringing you to Repentance, such Miracles, and particularly casting out

(h) *Son of Man*. The Phrase *Son of Man*, in *Mat. 12. 32.* belongs to Christ as he appeared in the Weakness of human Nature, the Son of *Mary*, abstracted from the great Power of his Doctrine and Miracles. The Sin therefore against the *Son of Man* was pardonable; but the resisting and opposing (which is often express'd by *speaking*) the Holy Ghost was unpardonable here and hereafter.

The quality of the *Son of Man* is often very ambiguous; and therefore we must take these Words, *Son of Man*, in their proper Signification, and retain them still where our Saviour is evidently understood, who has been pleas'd to take this Title particularly to himself.

Sometimes it signifies Jesus Christ sometimes a Man of low Degree; as in *Matthew 8. 10.* and here in *Mat. 12. 32.* This is likewise the Sense of it, as many of the Learned allow, in *1 Sam. 2. 25.* But that which renders this Interpretation more probable is this; that *St. Mark* makes no mention of the Blasphemy against the *Son of Man*, saying only, that all Sins and Blasphemies shall be forgiven unto the Sons of Man. *Mark 3. 28.* which shews that there is no Question here of a particular Sin against the Son of God, which *St. Mark* had not fail'd to have mention'd, if any such Thing had been meant by that Expression,

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ST MARK CHAP. IV. <sup>17</sup>  
 JESUS said, behold, there went out a sower to sow.



ST MARK 4 Verse 3. 4. 83.  
*And it came to pass as he sowed, some  
 fell by the way-side, and the fowls of  
 the Air came and devoured it up.*

“ Devils, have not yet been worthy of them, I shall  
 “ now apply this Parable, *Matthew* 12. 43, &c. the  
 “ Meaning of which is, That this Nation (out of  
 “ which I came to cast the Power of Satan, to bind  
 “ the strong Man, and to take from him his usurp’d  
 “ Possessions) doth appear so resolute to resist all my  
 “ Methods, as to blaspheme that Holy Spirit by  
 “ whom I work: And then what is to be expected,  
 “ but that the Devils ejected by me, in my Father’s  
 “ Name, finding no where among the Heathens such  
 “ desirable Habitations of Rest and Contentment as  
 “ among you, shall endeavour to re-enter here, with  
 “ others worse than themselves, and take a lasting Possession? So the last Estate of this People is like to  
 “ be more desperately damnable than it was at first.”

The same Day our Blessed Lord went to the (i) Sea-side, where being again encompass’d with a mighty Concurrence of People, he went on board a Ship, from whence he taught the People on the Shore: But he taught them by Parables, under which were hidden the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Life. By the Parable of the Sower scattering the Seed by the Way-side, and some on stony, some on thorny, and some on good Ground, he intimated the several Capacities and Dispositions of Mens Hearts, the Carelessness of some, the Frowardness and Levity of others, the easiness and Softness of a third, and how they are diverted from their true Duty by Worldliness and Cares; how many Ways there are to miscarry, and that but one Sort of Men receive the Word, and bring forth the Fruits of a holy Life. But his Disciples, wondering that he should speak so mystically and obscurely to the People, asked him, why he did so? And he gave them this Answer: “ To understand the higher and obscurer Parts  
 “ of the Gospel is a Privilege only belonging to you  
 “ Disciples, who are Believers already, and have undertaken to direct your Lives according to the Rules

(i) Sea-side. This was the Lake of *Tiberias*, from a Town of that Name; *Genesareth*, otherwise called the Sea of which stood on the Banks of the Lake.



“ of my Doctrine communicated to you; but these,  
 “ which have not done so, are not yet fit for revealing  
 “ of Secrets to them, but to be incited by the Dark-  
 “ ness of Parables, to inquire into the Meaning of  
 “ them. Whosoever hath made use of any Degree of  
 “ Grace or Knowledge given him by God, shall have  
 “ more given him, as in the Seed that fell on good  
 “ Ground, he shall have an abundant Increase; but  
 “ whosoever shall not make use of what he hath, and  
 “ so by his own Fault falleth into Poverty, he shall  
 “ not only be denied more, but shall be deprived of  
 “ what he hath; the Means of Grace shall be taken  
 “ from him upon his wilful Continuance in Sin, and all  
 “ Degrees of it.” This was the Reason our Saviour  
 gave his Disciples for his speaking in Parables, to  
 which he subjoins another: “ I spake, says he, to them  
 “ in Parables, (k) because seeing they see not, and  
 “ hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.  
 “ By which was fulfilled what *Isaiah* the Prophet fore-  
 “ told of God’s dealing with an obstinate People,  
 “ who would not receive or entertain the Truth,  
 “ though never so plainly represented to them. And  
 “ this was a just Judgment of God upon them for their  
 “ former Obstinacy, who shut their Eyes, and stop-

(k) *Because, &c.* Though our Blessed Lord spake to the People in the most plain and intelligible manner, yet they were so stupid, as not to perceive and understand him. These Texts of St. *Mat.* 13. 13. St. *Mark* 4. 12. and St. *Luke* 8. 10. do in the Greek all agree; but are differently and wrongly translated in the *English*, and seem to make our Saviour speak to the Multitude in Parables, that is, in a plain and familiar Way, that they may not perceive or understand them; which is contrary to the Design of Christ’s coming into the World; and continuing so long in it; which was to reform Mankind, and, by his holy Life and heavenly Doctrine, to turn Men from their wicked Ways, and put them in the Way that leads to eternal Happiness. The Mistake in the Translation must proceed from the false

rendering the Word *ina* in St. *Mark*, and St. *Luke*, which St. *Matthew* expresses by *both*, both which Words signify in this Place *because*. That of St. *Mark* therefore ought literally to run thus: *Because seeing they do see, and not perceive, and so on: That of St. Luke thus; Because seeing they see not, and hearing they understand not.* But St. *Matthew* is positively most expressive; *Because they seeing see not, and so on.* The natural Import of which is, That the *Jews*, by reason of their Prejudices, not being capable to understand high Things, our Saviour, out of love to their Souls, accommodates himself to their Capacities, by speaking to them in Parables; that is, in Metaphors and Similitudes borrow’d from temporal and bodily Things, to bring them to the understanding of his Doctrine.

“ped their Ears, that they might not be converted,  
 “and become capable of those Mercies God intended  
 “them; for which God on his part would withdraw  
 “such precious Knowledge from them, that it might  
 “not be exposed to further Contempt.”

By the three Parables of the Seed growing with the  
 Tares, of the Mustard-seed swelling to a great Tree,  
 and of a little Leaven qualifying the whole Lump, our  
 Blessed Saviour signified the Increase of the Gospel un-  
 der Persecution and Difficulties, and the Blessings up-  
 on the Apostolick Sermons. By the Kingdom of Hea-  
 ven he means the State of the Gospel, which he likens  
 to a Man that sow'd good Seed, among which an Ene-  
 my scatter'd Tares, and which the Servants offer to  
 weed up; but the good Man forbid it, because, says  
 he, the Tares are so mixed with the Wheat, that one  
 cannot be pull'd up without indangering the other,  
 especially when they are not perfectly discernable.  
 Let them therefore both grow up together till Har-  
 vest, that is, till the Day of Judgment, when I will  
 send the Reapers, that is, will appoint Angels as Of-  
 ficers, to separate the Wheat from the Tares, mean-  
 ing the Good from the Wicked.

The State of the Gospel is of such a growing procre-  
 ative Nature, both in the World, and in the Heart of  
 Man, where it is receiv'd, that it is fitly compared to  
 a Grain (1) of Mustard; which being one of the least  
 Seeds that are, yet when it grows up prosperously, it  
 becomes bigger than any thing that comes from a  
 Seed, and among the *Jews* grows into a Tree with  
 Boughs large enough for Birds to roost and lodge in.

Again, the Gospel hath such a secret invisible Influe-  
 nce on the Hearts of Men, to change and affect them

(1) *Mustard.* That a Mustard-seed  
 grows into a Tree, is affirm'd by St.  
*Mat.* 13. 32. and St. *Luke* 13. 19.  
 Which must not be measured by what  
 we see of this Seed among us, but by  
 considering the Hebrew Soil and Clime,  
 of which this is ordinarily affirmed a-  
 mong their Authors, who mention a  
 Bough of a Mustard-tree that yielded

Wood enough to cover a little House.  
 And whereas in St. *Matthew* it is said  
 to be the least of all Seeds, though a-  
 mong us other Seeds may be found less  
 than that, as Rue and Poppy, yet it  
 does not necessarily follow it should be  
 so there. However, it is apparent,  
 that the Smallness of it was proverbial  
 among the *Jews*.

and all their Actions, that it is properly resembled to Leven, which is so thorowly mix'd with the whole, that although it appeareth not in any Part of it visibly, yet every Part hath a Tincture from it.

By speaking thus in Parables, our Blessed Saviour fulfilled what was before spoken by the Prophetick (m) Psalmist: *I will open my Mouth in Parables, I will utter Things which have been kept secret from the Foundation of the World.* After this, he dismiss'd the Multitude, and retired into a House; where his Disciples, taking the Opportunity of Privacy there, desire him to (n) explain the former Parables to them, which he accordingly did, rendring them into their proper Meanings, adding to them two Parables more, concerning the Dignity of the Gospel: In the first of which he compares it to a Treasure hid in a Field, which a Man finding casually hid it again, and conceal'd it till he could get it into his Possession by buying the Field, for which he accounts no Price too dear.

In the second Parable, he compares the Gospel to a Jewel of vast Price; for to those who have follow'd the Study of Wisdom and the Practice of Holiness, the Gospel of Christ is as welcome as a rich Prize to a Merchant, who being in pursuit of rich Merchandize, and meeting with a Jewel of vast Price and fit for his Turn, disputes not the Price, but immediately sells all

(m) See Psalm 78. 2.

(n) Explain. By our Saviour's explaining all Things to his Disciples, when he was alone with them, we may understand that he instructed them in private in his Doctrine, enlarged on the Meaning of the Parables, and likewise inform'd them of several other Things which were neither necessary nor convenient to be known by the Multitude at that Time: so that this Expression of St. Mat. 13. 11. *To you it is given to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it is not,* does not in the least imply, that our Saviour's Parables were dark or obscure, and that by speaking to the Multitude in them, he had a Design to conceal any Truth which

was necessary to be known by them; but only that he made a fuller Discovery of his Doctrine to his Disciples, than to the Multitude; because his Disciples were more disposed to receive it, and were afterwards to be the Preachers of it, and to seal the Truth of it with their Blood. Nor is it any Proof of the Obscurity of our Saviour's Parables, that the Disciples did not understand some of them: For though they were honest and sincere, and piously disposed, yet they were often at a Loss in ordinary Things, of which their not understanding the Parable of the Sower seems to be an Instance, for which our Saviour upbraids them, saying, *Know ye not this Parable? How then will ye know all Parables?*

that

that he hath in the World, and purchaseth it : Telling his Disciples withal, that although Purity and spiritual Perfections were intended by the Gospel, yet they would not be acquired by every Person ; but that the publick Professors of Christianity should be a mixed Multitude, like a Net inclosing Fishes good and bad ; which should be distinguish'd, the good to be preserv'd, and the bad to be cast away. Likewise the same Distinction would be observed, not only at the Time wherein Christ should come to work his Revenge upon his Enemies at the Destruction of the *Jewish* State, but especially at the final Day of every Man's Doom, at the Conclusion of the World.

After these Discourses, he retired into his own City of *Nazareth*, where he was bred, and taught the People publickly in their Synagogues, which he did in an extraordinary Manner, expressing such Knowledg, and doing such Miracles, that they who saw and heard him, were amazed at them ; and they that knew his Birth and Education amongst them could not but admire, saying, Whence can he be imagined to derive the Power of doing such Miracles ? Do we not know him, his Parents, and Relations ? The People of *Nazareth* did him no Honour as a Prophet : They regarded his Birth here below, but not his Commission from Heaven, though he evinced plainly by his miraculous Acts from whom he came : They would know him in nothing but the Disadvantages of his Youth, Kindred, Trade, and Poverty ; still retaining in their Minds the Infirmities and Humility of his first Years, and keeping the same Apprehensions of him now a Man and a Prophet, which they had of him whilst a Child in the Shop of a Carpenter. But when Jesus in his Sermon had reprov'd their Infidelity, at which he wonder'd, and therefore did but few Miracles there in respect of what he had done at *Capernaum*, and had intimated the Preference that *Capernaum* should have before *Nazareth*, they were so incensed at his just Reproaches, that they resolv'd



to destroy him ; in order to which they thrust him out of the City, and led him to the Brow of the Hill on which the City was built, intending his Execution by throwing him down head-long. But his Work for which he was sent, was not yet finished ; and therefore to preserve himself for the Performance of his Father's Will, he miraculously sav'd himself by making his Escape through the midst of them, who had not Power, though Malice enough, to seize him.

Jesus having miraculously escap'd the Fury of his own Countrymen, withdraws from ungrateful *Nazareth*, and travels into *Galilee*, teaching in most of the Towns and Villages thereof, attended by his Disciples, and certain Women, out of whom he had cast unclean Spirits, such as were *Mary Magdalen*, *Johanna* Wife to *Chuzza*, *Herod's* Steward, *Susanna*, and some others, who did for him Offices of Provision, and minister'd to him out of their own Substance, and became Part of that Holy College, which about this time began to be full ; because now the Apostles, whom our Saviour had sent out by two and two, were return'd from their Preaching, full of Joy that the Devils were made subject to the Words of their Mouth, that they had submitted to the Empire of their Prayers, and could no longer stand at the Invocation of the holy Name of Jesus. Having thus wrought Miracles, and taught the People where-ever they came, they began to be a little puffed up with their successful Peregrination, which their holy Master perceiving, assuages the rising Tumour of their Minds ; and to suppress the vain Conceits to which these miraculous Actions of theirs had given Birth, he intimates to them that such Privileges were not the solid Foundations of a holy Joy, any further than they co-operated toward the great End of God's Glory, and their own Salvation ; to which when they are consigned, and their Names register'd in Heaven, then their Joy is reasonable, holy, true, and perpetual.

It was now about a Year since (o) *Herod* had committed St. *John* Baptist close Prisoner to the Castle of *Macheruns*, lying all the while expos'd to the Fury and Resentment of a malicious Woman, who could not forgive the Rebuke the Baptist gave to *Herod*, in telling him it was unlawful for him to have his Brother's Wife. In vain had *Herodias* rack'd her Brain for an Opportunity to destroy him for it, for *Herod* had not yet fill'd up the Measure of his Iniquity. But, after a Year's waiting, a favourable Occasion offer'd it self to complete her Revenge. *Herod's* Birth-Day being solemniz'd with much Mirth and Gaiety, among other joyful Entertainments nothing contributed so much to *Herod's* Pleasure and Satisfaction as the active Performance of *Herodias's* Daughter in a Dance: Insomuch that *Herod* rashly promises her whatever she would ask, confirming his Promise with an Oath. The Damsel, not wicked enough of herself, consults her impious Mother, who as readily as maliciously instructs her Daughter to demand the Head of *John* Baptist: To obtain which she addresses her self to *Herod*, and demands the Performance of his Promise. *Herod* is now (p) troubled indeed; Variety of Thoughts distract him; not so

(o) *Herod*. Our Translation and that of Geneva seem to represent *Herod* as a Prince who respected St. *John* Baptist, and had a great Esteem for all he said, Mark 6. 20. Though by St. *Matthew* and St. *John*, he is represented as a very wicked Wretch, whom nothing but the Fear of the People, that look'd on *John* as a Prophet, did prevent putting him to Death, Mat. 14. 5. Luke 3. 19, 20. But we are to consider, that the Greek Word *Syneterei*, which the Geneva Version translates to reverence, and ours to observe, signifies to keep Prisoner, or to observe or watch with an ill Design. We must consider further, that *Robert Stephens* and *Besa* had some Greek Copies, where, instead of the Words which we render *He did many Things*, there are Words which signify *He was much vexed or troubled*: Which indeed much better represent the Temper of that dissolute Prince. *Josephus* the Historian

observes, That *Herod* had put *John* Baptist to Death, because he thought the People were altogether led by him; which is an Argument that he did neither respect him, nor hear him gladly, nor do many Things for love of him. The Text then should be thus translated: For *Herod* feared *John*, knowing that he was a just Man, and holy, and he kept him Prisoner, or kept a watchful Eye over him, and having heard him he was much perplexed, though he heard him peaceably.

(p) *Troubled*. The Ancients were wont on their Birth-Day-Feasts to forbear all secular Employments, to have no Quarrels nor Contentions, no Pleadings in their Courts, but especially no shedding of Blood, no Executions; counting it unfit to deprive any of Life on the Day they received theirs. This therefore might be one of the Occasions of *Herod's* Sorrow or Trouble for this Demand of the Girl.

much

much the Fear of doing an ill thing in murdering the good Man, but Fear of the People's Resentment, who had a mighty Opinion of *John's* Mission. However, because he had sworn, and that it might not appear a Levity or Inconstancy to those that were at the Feast with him, he would not retract his Promise, but sacrifices the Baptist to a rash Vow, made in the Gaiety of his Lust and riotous Entertainment. *John* being beheaded, his (q) Head was brought in a Dish, and made a Festival Present to the young (r) Girl, who gave it to her Mother. *John's* Disciples hearing of this, took care of his (s) Burial, which being done they came to Jesus, whose Forerunner *John* was, and told him what had befallen *John*, staying (probably) with Jesus as his Disciples.

The miraculous Cures the Apostles wrought were soon spread round the Country; but when those of our Saviour came to be once divulg'd, the Fame of them echo'd through the Palaces of Princes, insomuch that cruel *Herod* in all his Greatness is alarm'd with anxious Thoughts as soon as ever he heard the mighty Character of Jesus, and the Wonders he perform'd. His Lethargick Soul is soon awaken'd from its sinful Security, and his jealous Apprehensions were such as derived from his Guilt: He thought it was *John* the Baptist who was risen from the Dead; and that these mighty Works were Demonstrations of his Power increased by the Super-additions of Immortality,

(q) *Head*. When *Herodias* had the Head presented her by her Daughter *Salome*, she thrust the Tongue thro with a Needle, and afterwards buried the Head in her own Palace, thinking to secure it against a Reunion, lest it should again disturb her unlawful Lusts, and disquiet *Herod's* Conscience.

(r) *Girl*. This Girl, who danc'd off the Baptist's Head, passing over a frozen Lake, the Ice breaking she fell in up to the Neck, and her Head was parted from her Body by the Violence of the Fragments of Ice shaken by the Water, and its own Fall. Nor was it long be-

fore God's Judgment reach'd the incestuous Couple: For *Aretas*, a King in *Arabia Petrea* (whose Daughter *Herod* had divorced, or put away for *Herodias*) making war with *Herod* for the Affront to his Daughter, defeats him: Soon after which the adulterous Pair were banish'd to *Lyons* in *France*, by Decree of the *Roman* Senate, where they lived ingloriously, and died miserably.

(s) *Burial*. *John* was buried in *Galilee*, in the Confines of *Samaritan*, having his Grave between the Bodies of *Elizeus* and *Abdias* the Prophets.

and

and more divine Influences, made proportionable to the Honour of a Martyr, and State of Separation.

When Jesus heard of the barbarous Treatment of *John*, that the same might not befall him before he had fulfilled the Office for which he was sent, he departed by Ship from thence, taking none but his Disciples with him, and went to a Place not inhabited. But he could not be long concealed any where; for the People hearing where he was, though in an inhospitable Defart, flock to him as fast as they could, taking a great Circuit by Land before they could come at him. The Holy Jesus seeing their Faith and Zeal, though he came to this Defart to avoid being thronged, would not conceal himself any longer from them; but being moved with Compassion he came to them, and healed their Sick. But considering afterwards that they were not within reach of any Entertainment, there being no House or Village near, lest the Multitude should faint in their Return to their Houses, he resolves by a miraculous Supply to make Provision for them: And demanding what Store of Food they had, the Disciples told him only five Loaves and two Fishes. Upon which he commands the Company to sit down on the Grass: He took the Loaves and Fishes, and looking up to Heaven blessed and brake them, giving them to the Disciples to divide among the Multitude. Here was a Miracle beyond the Expectation or Desire of the People: They had their End in attending him, by having their Sick healed; but when they saw that with five Loaves of Barley and two small Fishes he satisfied five thousand Men, besides Women and Children, and that the Fragments which remain'd fill'd twelve Baskets, the Miracle so happily met their Affections, that they no longer doubted of his being the *Messias*, who was to come into the World, and therefore they design'd to take him back with them by Force, and proclaim him (t) King. But Jesus presently sent his Disciples before him to the Wilderness by Sea,

(t) King. See *John* 6. 15.

which



which was on the same side with *Bethsaida* and *Capernaum*: For he that left his Father's Kingdom to take upon him the Miseries and Infelicities of this World, declin'd the tumultuary Election of an Earthly Crown. Therefore when he had sent away his Disciples to *Bethsaida* by Water, he went into the Mountains to hide himself till the Multitude should separate to their several Habitations, he in the mean time taking the Opportunity of that Retirement for the Advantage of his (v) Prayers. But when the Apostles were engaged in the Sea far from Land, on a sudden a great and violent Storm arose, with which they were pressed to the Extremity of Danger, labouring almost in Hopelessness and Despair till the fourth Watch of the Night, when in the midst of their Fears and Labours Jesus comes walking on the Sea, and appeared to them, which put them into a great Fright. They had lost their Pilot who used to conduct them safely through all Difficulties of Sea and Land; and being now left to themselves, they had nothing but Fear and Despair before their Eyes; and seeing a Shape of they knew not what walking on the Water, they supposed it had been a Spirit: But in tenderness to their Frailty he soon dispell'd their Fears, by telling them who he was, which yet they desired to have confirmed to them by Demonstrations: For when Jesus bid them not to be afraid, telling them who he was, *Simon Peter* said unto him, *Master, if it be thou, command me to come to thee on the Waters.* The Lord did so; and *Peter* throwing himself upon the Confidence of his Master's Power and Providence, came out of the Ship; but his Fear began to weigh him down, and he cried, saying, *Lord save me.* Jesus taking him by the Hand, reprov'd his Timorousness, and the Weakness of his Faith, *Why didst thou doubt? Why was thy Heart divided between Faith and Diffidence? Why didst thou distrust my Power, who bid thee come to me?* When they were come into the Ship, the rest of the Disciples seeing

(v) See Mat. 14. 33.

ST MATTHEW CHAP. XIV.<sup>18</sup>  
CHRIST walketh on the water.



ST MATTHEW<sub>14</sub>.Verse 31.<sup>92</sup>

*And Peter Beginning to sink, saying, Lord  
save me. And immediately Jesus stretched  
forth his hand, and caught him etc.*

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*Peter* safe, and the Storm appeased, came and adored Jesus, acknowledging his Omnipotence, and admiring the Divinity of his Power and Person. From hence they go over to the Land of *Genesareth*, whither, when the Inhabitants heard that he was come (for they knew him, as having been there before) they sent unto him all the diseased People in the Place, with so firm a Confidence believing his Power, that they only desired a Touch of his Garment for the curing their most stubborn inveterate Maladies: And as many as did touch his Clothes were healed.

The Day following the People that stood on the other side of the Sea considering that there was no other Boat there, but that wherein the Disciples had embark'd, and that they had put off without Jesus, coming nigh the Place where they had eaten Bread, when by blessing the five Loaves he so multiplied them, that they were sufficient to feed five thousand; when they saw Jesus was gone from thence as well as his Disciples, they concluded that Jesus, though he went not with them, was gone after them to *Capernaum*, his usual Habitation: and having Opportunity of other Vessels for Passage, they took Ship, and went to *Capernaum* to look for him. Where when they found him, and not knowing which way he came thither, they in a Surprise asked him how he came there. But Jesus, instead of gratifying their Curiosity with a direct Answer, takes Occasion from this busy Inquiry of theirs to observe to them, " That which induces you to follow me is not the Acknowledgment of my divine Power evidenc'd by my Miracles; nor is it to imbrace my Doctrine, or a Desire to learn of me, but a gross carnal Complacency of gratifying your Appetites, and such Advantages, which you obtained by my multiplying the Loaves to feed you. Set not your Hearts on these poor external Advantages, desire not to acquire this corporal Food in order to your worldly Ends; but look out to get your Part of that Food which is unperishable, and will make  
" all



“ all that feed on it immortal.” Hereupon they say  
 to him, “ What Course wilt thou prescribe to us, that  
 “ we may be always imployed in the Works of God,  
 “ so as to be acceptable to him?” Jesus tells them,  
 “ That which God requires of them is to believe on  
 “ him, the *Messias*, whom God hath sent.” Then  
 they, tho they had before believed, and resolv’d that  
 he must be the (w) *Messias*, and were therefore mind-  
 ed to make him their King, now retract their former  
 Resolution, and demand further Demonstrations; tel-  
 ling him they had great Reason to adhere to *Moses*,  
 who wrought such Miracles, brought down bread from  
 Heaven ready prepared; and unless he would produce  
 some such Testimony as might equal that of the *Man-  
 na*, they would not believe on him. Jesus saith, “ I  
 “ assure you that *Manna* came not from Heaven, but  
 “ out of the airy Region; that it was the Work of  
 “ God, not of *Moses*: And now the same God gives  
 “ you far more durable Food than that was; gives  
 “ you Me, who came really from Heaven, and am  
 “ Bread and Food to your Souls, as *Manna* was to  
 “ your Bodies: For that fed but your Bodies, and pre-  
 “ sently putrified; but that which God gives you now  
 “ is for your Souls, and feeds them to Eternity. I  
 “ am that durable vivifick Bread of God, whose Ex-  
 “ cellency is infinitely above that of *Manna*. You have  
 “ seen me, and tasted of my Miracles, yet ye do  
 “ not believe in me, and consequently feed not on  
 “ this true Bread which came from Heaven. (x) This  
 “ is an Evidence of great Obstinacy in you; for had  
 “ God’s preventing Grace had any Success on you,  
 “ you would certainly come in and obey my Call, and  
 “ I should not afterwards reject you: For this lies up-  
 “ on me, as the Office for which my Father hath sent  
 “ me, the fulfilling of which is my Care, that I should  
 “ preserve every one that with an honest Heart shall  
 “ thus come and believe in me, and give every one  
 “ that perseveres, besides many excellent Privileges

(w) *Messias*. See John 6. 14, &c.

(x) See John 6. 37, &c.  
“ here

“ here, eternal Life of Body and Soul hereafter.  
 “ There is also another Part of my Father’s Com-  
 “ mission to me, that whosoever believeth in his Son  
 “ should not perish, but inherit everlasting Life in  
 “ the other World.” When the *Jews* heard him say  
 he was the Bread which came down from Heaven,  
 they regarding his Birth here on Earth, and his Pa-  
 rentage, could not forbear murmuring. To which Je-  
 sus replies, “ I have said nothing to cause this murmu-  
 “ ring: (y) ’Tis true, there is some Pretence for these  
 “ vulgar Prejudices against me; but it is an Effect of  
 “ my Father’s preventing Grace to fit and prepare  
 “ Mens Hearts to be ready and willing to come to  
 “ me: And for every one that doth thus come, and  
 “ therein obey my Call, on him will I certainly be-  
 “ stow everlasting Life. The Sum therefore of what  
 “ I thus say hath been obscurely deliver’d to you of old  
 “ by the Prophets: For (z) they speaking of these  
 “ Times foretold that God would dispose the Hearts  
 “ of Men to receive Christ; and therefore it was that  
 “ I said, That every Disciple of my Father that had  
 “ not resisted that Guidance, doth certainly come to  
 “ me, and believe in me. The *Manna* given in the  
 “ Desert did not make immortal those that did eat it:  
 “ But the Bread which is now sent you down from  
 “ Heaven, will give Immortality to them that feed on  
 “ it. And this Bread of Life is not only prepared for  
 “ you *Jews*, but for all besides, that will receive and  
 “ digest it into the Food and Nourishment of their  
 “ Souls.” Hereupon the *Jews* taking every Thing he  
 spake in (a) a literal Sense, dispute among themselves  
 how he could give his Flesh to eat, and his Blood to  
 drink. Jesus knowing their Diffidence, tells them in  
 the same metaphorical Way, “ Except you feed on  
 “ this celestial Food, that is, be sincerely my Disci-  
 “ ples, you have no part of the true immortal Life in  
 “ you. For I that am sent in the Flesh to die for the

(y) See *John* 6. 44, &c.(z) See *Isa.* 54. 13.(a) See *John* 6. 56, 57, &c.

“ World,

“ World, am such Food as will feed you to everlasting  
 “ Life: I that came down from the Father must needs  
 “ derive Life from him; so he that believeth in me  
 “ must necessarily derive Life from me. The *Manna*  
 “ which your Fathers did eat could not preserve them  
 “ for ever, for they are dead; but the Bread that I  
 “ shall give you shall be to you everlasting Nutriment.”

In this metaphorical way of talking Jesus continued some time; upon which divers of his Disciples (b) forsook him, being scandalized by their literal and carnal understanding of those Words which he intended in a spiritual Sense: For the Words which he spake were not profitable in the Sense of Flesh and Blood; but they are Spirit, and they are Life, himself being the Expounder, who best knew his own Meaning.

Jesus seeing this great Desertion of his Disciples, began to suspect the rest, not excepting the Twelve Apostles; and therefore turning to them, he asked them, If they also would forsake him? To whom *Simon Peter* answered, *Lord, whither shall we go? Thou hast the Word of eternal Life: And we believe, and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the Living God.* But although this publick Confession was made by *St. Peter* in the Name and Confidence of the other Apostles, yet Jesus, who knew the Hearts of them all, answer'd *Peter*, “ Have I not I of all the Followers that have believed in me  
 “ chosen but twelve to be my constant Attendants  
 “ and one proves a Traytor?” meaning *Judas Iscariot*, who afterwards betrayed him. This he spake to them prophetically, that they might perceive that the sad Accidents which afterward happen'd, particularly in the Treachery of *Judas*, who conspired with the *Jews* to destroy him, did not surprize or so disadvantageously invade him that he could not prevent them, but that they came by his own Knowledge and Providence: And though *Judas* as yet had made no

(b) *John* 6. 66. Among those Disciples which *St. John* says deserted our Saviour upon the misunderstanding of this Sermon, *St. Mark* the Evangelist

is by *Epiphanius*, *Hæres.* 15. said to be one, but was afterwards recalled to *Simon Peter*.

Offer or Attempt that Way, yet our Saviour knew he would deliver him to the *Jews*, notwithstanding he was so near him as to be one of the Apostles, whom he sent out to preach the Gospel to all People.

## B O O K V.

*The third Year of Christ's publick Ministry, beginning at the third Passover after his Baptism.*

THIS Passover our Blessed Saviour would not go up to *Jerusalem*, but went about preaching among the Cities of *Galilee*, where he rather chose to do it than in *Judea*; because the Rulers of the *Jews*, especially those of the *Sanhedrim* at *Jerusalem*, lay upon the catch for some Advantage or Occasion to put him to Death. The Pharisees therefore and some Scribes that came from *Jerusalem* knowing this, quarrell'd with him, about certain impertinent unnecessary Rites, derived to them not by divine Sanction, but mere Ordinances of Men, such as were (c) washing their Hands often when they eat, and several other Ceremonies, which the Apostles of Jesus did not observe, but attended diligently to the Simplicity and spiritual Holiness of their Master's Doctrine. But in return to these and many other their vain Demands, Jesus gave them a sharp Reproof for prosecuting these and other Traditions, to the Discouragement of divine Precepts; and in particular they taught Men to give to the (d) *Corban*, and refused to supply the Necessity of their Parents,

(c) *Washing*. This was a mere Superstition among the *Jews*, and so strictly injoin'd, that the Transgressor was esteem'd guilty of a capital Crime: so much that some of their Rabbies

thought it worthy of Death; others, that to eat with unwashed Hands was as scandalous as lying with a Whore.

(d) *Corban*. There was a solemn Form of devoting among the *Jews*, though



Parents, thinking it to be Religion, though they neglected Piety and Charity, and that to so great Objects as necessitous Parents. Here was an Example plain enough to demonstrate, that they who insisted so strictly upon the Observation of Traditions, made no Scruple to null the Obligations of God's Commands. Then charging them with downright Hypocrisy, he reproaches them with what *Isaiah* prophesied of them; "Ye draw near me in outward Professions of Devotion, but your Hearts are far from me. The Service which ye perform to me is vain, and likely to receive a slender Reward, since my Commands are not regarded by you, but instead thereof ye set up the Constitutions of Men." And leaving the Pharisees with some Displeasure, he calls the Multitude, who, while he talks with the Pharisees, stood at some Distance, and speaks more hopefully of, and cheerfully to them, saying, "As to this Matter of washing before Meat, so much insisted on by the Pharisees, do you consider what I now say, *Not that which is eaten, but that which is spoken polluteth any Man.*" But his Disciples knowing the Malice of the Pharisees, and fearing that by any further Reproaches he might aggravate and provoke them to do him some Mischief, he gives them no other Reply than this: "All that come with such Prejudice as the Pharisees do, that prefer their own Ordinances before the Commands of God, it's to be expected, that telling them the Truth will not please them. All Seed, but that of which my Father owns the sowing, and which is radicated in

though contrary to Charity, yet very frequent among them, to bind a Man's self by Vow or Execration, that he will in nothing be beneficial to his Neighbour, his Parent, &c. confirming by Oath the Cruelty of his Disposition, says *Philo.* And this by them was called *Corban*, *Mark* 7. 11. and *Mat.* 15. 5. a Gift. What is thus passed under their Vow, is, say they, utterly forbidden or unlawful, which being consecrated must not be touched, or employed to any other Use.

So that the plain Meaning of the Place is, A Father being in want complains to his Son; the Son answers that he hath vowed he will not, and therefore it is unlawful for him to relieve his Father. And the Pharisees approved of this Practice, that he may thus evacuate his Duty to his Parents; and though quite contrary to the Precept of honouring and relieving them, yet it was thought obligatory by them to the frustrating the Commandments.

"Humility

“ Humility and Piety, shall come to nothing ; and  
“ consequently so must all Faith in these opinionative  
“ Men ; and therefore it is not strange if they be gal-  
“ led at my Words, and depart from them upon my  
“ reproving their Errors. If this hath touch’d and  
“ discourag’d them, let them go ; they are stupidly  
“ and perversly ignorant themselves ; they take plea-  
“ sure in being called Doctors and Instructors of the  
“ ignorant : and what can be the Effect of this, but  
“ that the Leaders, and they that are led by them,  
“ shall together ingulph themselves in Destruction ?”

After this he thunders out Woes and Sadnesses against their Impieties, for being curious of Times, and punctual in Rites and Ceremonies, but at the same time most negligent and incurious of Judgment, and the Love of God ; upbraids them for their Pride and Hypocrisy, for imposing heavy Burdens upon others which themselves helped not to support ; for taking away the Key of Knowledge from the People, obstructing the Passage to Heaven, and approving the Acts of their Fathers in persecuting the Prophets. But for the Question of Washings, at the Importunity of *Peter* he explains it to them, shewing that no outward Impurity did stain the Soul in the sight of God ; every Thing that we eat first comes from without, and so is no Part of us, is not imputable to us in respect of the Principle, and then doth but pass through us, is soon digested and thrown out of the Body again, and so be it never so gross, never so unclean, it cannot pollute the Eater : But all Pollution is from within, from the Corruption of the Heart, such as impure Thoughts, unchast Desires, unholy Purposes, immodest and indecent Speech ; these are the Things that leave a lasting Stain upon the Soul, and defile it ; but so merely corporeal and external a Thing as omitting to wash before Meat, cannot be supposed to defile a Man.

From hence Jesus departed into the Coasts of *Tyre* and *Sidon*, and entred into an House with design to conceal himself. But the Fame of his Miracles disco-

ver'd him wheresoever he went; especially in case of Distress. The Diligence of a Mother's Love and Sorrow for her Child in Torment soon found him out in his Retirement; for a *Syrophænician* Woman hearing of his miraculous Power which he exercis'd over Devils and unclean Spirits, recognizing his Dignity, thus addresses her self to him, *Have Mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David, my Daughter is grievously vexed with a Devil.* Jesus at first received her with Coldness and Indifference, but his Disciples, to be rid of her Importunity, desire him to grant her Request and dismiss her. Jesus tells them he was sent only to the *Jews*, to reduce them to Repentance, and to shew his Miracles among them. The poor Woman impatient of Delay, continues her importunate Addresses to him, and prostrating her self at his Feet, implores his Help on her Child. Jesus told her, *It was not (e) meet to work those Miracles on an Heathen, which were destin'd to God's People the Jews.* The afflicted Mother finding his Discourse to tend to nothing but Discomfort, and Rejection of her for her Nation's sake, renews her Petition, humbly acknowledging the Truth of what he urg'd, but in all Submission hoped a poor distressed Heathen might be admitted to partake of the Mercies promised to the *Jews*. She desired but one Instance of Favour on her Daughter, which he poured forth without measure upon the Sons and Daughters of *Israel*. Jesus being pleased with her Zeal and Discretion, and pitying her Daughter's Infelicity, dismisses her with this Applause of her Faith, and Comfort to her Child, *O Woman, great is thy Faith, be it unto thee as thou desirest.* And her Daughter was made whole in that instant of Time. The joyful Mother retires with infinite Pleasure and Satisfaction, and finds her Daughter perfectly cured. Jesus after the Performance of this Miracle staid not long there, but returning to the Coast of *Galilee* through the midst of *Decapolis*, they present unto him an unhappy Youth, deprived of the Benefit of Speech and Hearing. Our Savi-

(e) *Meet.* Compare this Explication with the Text of *St. Mat. 15. 26, 27.*

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ST MARK CHAP. VII.  
JESUS healeth the dumb man.

49



ST MARK 7. Verse 33. <sup>101.</sup>

*And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit and touched his tongue,*

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our surveying this Object with Pity, takes him (*f*) aside from the gazing Croud, and, in a more than usually solemn Posture of Devotion, fixing his Eyes on Heaven, where the Father of Light dwelleth, pronounced the young Man cured. The String which so long had held his Tongue in Prison was broken, and the Organs of his Ears were sensible of the Repercussion of each joyful Sound upon them. Our Saviour returning him to his glad Friends, enjoins them Silence; who cannot contain their Joy, but joining with both *Jews* and *Gentiles* in Admiration of such wonderful Acts, acknowledge that none but the God of *Israel* could do such Things.

These miraculous Acts of his echo through all Places where-ever he passes, attracting Multitudes of diseased People, who apply to him for Relief; which none fail of, for he healed them all. The People could not forbear following him; each Day and Hour furnishing them with something rare and strange, insomuch that they followed him three Days successively, and at last had nothing of Sustenance to support them till they could return to their own Homes. Jesus seeing such Crouds of People lie fainting about him, in pity to their Necessity resolved to feed them once more at the Expence of a Miracle. In order thereunto he first tries the Apostles Faith, by commanding them to provide for his poor hungry Guests. They answer in a Surprise, "Whence should we find Provision for such a Multitude in so barren and inhospitable a Place?" However he demands an Account of their scanty Store, which they producing, amounted to no more than se-

(*f*) *Aside.* The Fathers differ very much in their Opinions about the Reason of Christ's taking the young Man aside; for since he design'd to work a Miracle on him, it might be thought expedient to do it in publick. But after various Conjectures, the Context in *St. Mark* 7. 36. seems most clearly to explain this Text in the 33d Verse, of *leading him aside.* For in ver. 36. our Saviour commands that this Miracle be

kept secret; for which Reason he may be supposed to do it in secret. As to the Performance of this and many other Miracles in secret, the general Opinion is, that our Saviour in the main did it to denote his Humility; that he perform'd not many Miracles in publick for Ostentation sake, but for the Necessity of convincing the *Jews*, as well as healing their Infirmities.

ven Loaves and a few small Fishes. With this poor Pittance of Food he begins the Banquet, ordering the Multitude to seat themselves on the grassy Carpets, while he multiply'd this small Storehouse of Bread and Fish to a Quantity large enough to supply their Wants. Then taking the Loaves into his sacred Hands, he blessed them, and giving to his Disciples, bid them distribute to the People of them and the Fish, which they do, whilst the astonish'd Croud know not which most to admire, the gratifying their hungry Appetites, or their astonish'd Senses. But the blessed Jesus's whole Life is a continued Series of Wonders, each miraculous Hour being succeeded by another: For no sooner had he fed and satisfied this Multitude, that consisted of above four thousand, but the seven Loaves and small Fishes, which one small Basket could contain, do at the End of a Feast, when all the Guests were satisfied, produce seven Baskets full of Fragments.

From hence Jesus departed by Ship to the Coasts of *Mageddon* and *Dalmanutha*, whither the Pharisees and Sadduces came seeking a Sign of him. But Jesus rejected their captious and impertinent Demand, knowing they did it to an ill Purpose, and with Disaffection; reproving them that they discerned the Face of the Sky, and the Prognosticks of fair or foul Weather, but not the Signs of the Time of the Son of Man. However, since they had neglected so great Demonstrations of Miracles, gracious Discourses, holy Laws and Prophecies, they must expect no other Sign but the Sign of the Prophet (g) *Jonas*. And so he dismisses these impertinent Inquisitors.

Jesus again taking ship, passes over the Lake, and by the way, as his Disciples were solicitous because they had forgot to take Bread, he gave them caution to beware of the Pharisees and Sadduces, and the Leven of *Herod*; meaning the Hypocrisy and Vanities of the one, and the Heresy of the other. For *Herod's* Leven

(g) *Jonas*. Meaning the Resurrection of his Body after three Days Burial: For as *Jonas* was three Days and three Nights in the Whale's Belly, so must the Son of Man be in the Bowels of the Earth.

ST MARK CHAP. VIII.

21

CHRIST feedeth the multitude miraculously.



ST MARK 8. Verse 8. 102.

*So they did eat, and were filled, and  
they took up of the broken meat that was  
left, seven baskets*



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was the Pretence that he was the Messias, which the Sect of the *Herodians* did earnestly and spitefully promote. But the Disciples understanding their Lord in a literal Sense about taking care of bringing Bread with them, he reproaches them with Ingratitude and Forgetfulness, in their Distrust of God's Providence, and his Care of them. "Why should you think, says he, that my Speech should relate to your Neglect of bringing Bread with you? as if I were not able to supply that Want. Will you never understand nor consider what has been before your Eyes? Do you not remember the two miraculous Feasts? the one of feeding five thousand with five Loaves, the other of four thousand with seven Loaves? How stupidly inconsiderate are ye to forget these Things?" After this manner entertaining themselves by the Way, they came together to *Bethsaida*, where Jesus cured a blind Man; for spitting on his Eyes and putting his Hands upon him, it was to the poor dark Wretch a salutary Balsam, when his divine Benediction had once consecrated it.

Our Blessed Lord soon departs thence into the Coasts of *Cæsarea Philippi*, out of *Herod's* Power, (for it was in *Philip's* Jurisdiction) and after he had prayed with his Disciples, he inquired what Opinion the World had of him; and (*b*) whom they thought him to be. They tell him, some say thou art *John* the Baptist, some *Elias*, and others *Jeremias*, or one of the Prophets. But Jesus asked the Apostles their Opinion; and *Peter* in the Name of all the rest made an open and confident Confession, "*Thou art CHRIST, the Son of the living God.*" This Confession Jesus not only confirmed as true, but as revealed by God; "This Faith of thine, saith Jesus to *Peter*, is not built

(*b*) *Whom.* In *Galilee* especially the Sect of the Pharisees was mightily divided, whose Opinion was, That the Souls of dead Men according to their several Merits did transmigrate into other Bodies of very perfect and excellent Persons. And therefore in all this

Variety none hit upon the right, or fancied him to be a distinct Person from the Ancients: But although they differed in the Assignment of his Name, yet generally they agreed it was the Soul of a departed Prophet, which had passed into another Body.

“ upon humane Testimony, but upon the Miracles  
 “ and Doctrines which thou hast seen and heard,  
 “ which are the Testimonies of God himself, where-  
 “ by he hath revealed me to thee.” And immedi-  
 ately after the Blessing of *Peter's* Person, upon Allusion  
 of *Peter's* Name, which signifies a Stone, Jesus said,  
*Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock* (the Article of *Peter's*  
 Confession) *I will build my Church*; promising As-  
 sistances even to perpetuity, insomuch that the Gates  
 of Hell, that is, Persecution, Death, and the Grave,  
 should never prevail against it; adding withal, a Pro-  
 mise to *Peter*, in behalf of all the rest, as he made  
 Confession for and in the Name of them (*i*) all, that  
 he would give to him the (*k*) Keys of the Kingdom  
 of Heaven, so that whatsoever he should bind on Earth  
 should be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever he should  
 loose on Earth should be loosed in Heaven. This  
 was a Power which he never communicated before or  
 since, but to them and their Successors; greater than  
 the large Charter of Nature, and the Donative of the  
 Creation, in which all the Creatures under Heaven  
 were made subject to Man's Empire; but till now  
 Heaven was never subordinate to humane Minis-  
 tration.

The Disciples thus knowing and acknowledging  
 him to be the *Messias*, and himself having confirm'd  
 it so to them, he commands them not to publish it till  
 after his Resurrection, at which Time in his Wisdom  
 he thought it most seasonable. And now the Days

(*i*) *All*. When our Blessed Lord put  
 the Question to his Disciples, *Mat. 15.*  
*16.* concerning himself, who he was, he  
 did not apply himself in particular to  
*Peter*, for he there says, *But whom say ye*  
*that I am?* Upon which *Peter*, as the  
 eldest Apostle, answers in the Name of  
 the rest, *Thou art Christ, &c.* and con-  
 sequently the Reply of our Saviour, and  
 the Blessing subsequent thereupon, was  
 not only applicable or pronounced singly  
 to *Peter*, but to the rest of the Twelve;  
 and the Power of Binding and Loosing  
 was not only given by him to *Peter*, as

the *Romanists* fondly presume, but also  
 to all the rest. This is plain from *Mat.*  
*18. 18.* where our Saviour in general  
 says, *Whatsoever ye shall bind on Earth,*  
*shall be bound in Heaven, &c.* Nor  
 whatsoever thou shalt bind, &c.

(*k*) *Keys*. This is the Power of ex-  
 ercising Censures and ecclesiastick Dis-  
 cipline, and by them to exclude Men in  
 case of their Impenitence, either by la-  
 ying Restraints on them in the Church,  
 or to turn them out of the Pale of it,  
 and upon Repentance to admit them to  
 gain,

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from hence forward to the Death of Jesus, we must reckon to be like Vigils or Eves of his Passion: for now he began and often did repeat those sad Predictions of the barbarous Usage he should shortly find from the *Jewish Sanhedrim*; that he should be rejected of the Elders and chief Priests and Scribes, and suffer many Things at *Jerusalem*, and be killed and raised up the third Day. *Peter* hearing this sad Discourse so contrary to his Hopes, which built too much upon temporal Expectances, (for he had hitherto only learnt the Doctrine of Christ's coming, but not the Mystery of the Cross) in great but mistaken Zeal, took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, saying, *Be it far from thee, Lord, this shall not befall thee.* But Jesus not approving so soft and humane an Admonition, that savoured not of God, but the World, chid *Peter* severely; saying, "*Get thee behind me (1) Satan, thou art an Offence to me; a Snare moving me to that which were a Sin, if I should yield to it, and contrary to the Will and Command of God my Father.*" And calling his Disciples to him, he told them a second Part of a sad Doctrine, which not only himself but they also must suffer. For when he the Head was to be crown'd with Thorns, it would be a great Indecency for them the Members to be indulg'd in Softness. And therefore to prepare them for what would hereafter happen to him and them, he tells them, that whoever will be his Disciple, must take up his Cross, deny himself and all his fonder Appetites, and trace his Master's Footsteps, mark'd out with his Blood that he shed for their Redemption. And to let them further see that there was no escaping from the Participation of Christ's Sufferings, he adds this Dilemma, *He that will save his Life shall lose it, and he that will lose it shall save it to Eternity.* Which

(1) *Satan*. The Word *Satan* here signifies according to the use of the Hebrew Phrase, & *Sam.* 19. 22. where *David* rejecting the Counsel of *Abiathar*, saith, *Why art thou to me this Day,*

in *Satanam*, for an *Adversary*? That is, Why dost thou give me this evil pernicious Counsel, and so suppliest the real Enemy's, or even the Devil's Place to me?



Part soever we chuse there is a Life to be lost : But as the first are foolish to the extremest Misery, that will lose their Souls to gain the World, so they are most wise and fortunate, that will give their Lives for him, because, when the Son of Man shall come in his Glory, and his Father's, and of his Angels, he shall reward every Man according to his Works. This Discourse Jesus concluded with a Prophecy, that (m) some standing in that Presence should not die till they saw the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom.

But that they might not entertain the Thoughts of a mere national Kingdom only, and such as their natural Conceptions could suggest to them ; the Holy Jesus about eight Days after this Conference with his Disciples selects Three of them, on whom he had bestowed many singular Favours, above the rest of the Twelve, to whom he intended to give a bright and excellent Specimen of the Glories of Heaven : Therefore taking with him *Peter* and *James* and *John*, he went up into Mount *Tabor* to pray ; and while he prayed he was transfigured before them, and his Face did shine like the Sun, and his Garments were white and glistering : And there appeared in this Glory with him *Moses* and *Elias*, talking of the (n) Decease which he should accomplish at *Jerusalem* ; which Glory these Apostles, after they had awaked from Sleep, did behold. These two that talked with Jesus having finished their Embassy of Death, (which they delivered in Forms of Glory representing the Excellencies of the Reward) departed, leaving the Apostles full of Fear and Wonder ; insomuch that *Peter* talked

(m) *Some*. This was meant of St. *John*, that he should not die, till that remarkable coming of Christ in Judgment upon his Crucifiers, the visible Destruction of the Jewish State. And that we find was fulfilled in St. *John's* seeing the Destruction of the Jews, which was to fall in that Generation, *Mat. 24.* that is, in the Life-time of some there present, and is called the Kingdom of God, and coming of Christ,

and by consequence here most probably the Son of Man's coming in his Kingdom, that is, his coming in the Exercise of his kingly Office, to work Vengeance on his Enemies, and discriminate the faithful Believers from the rest. Which was as literally fulfilled as had been foretold.

(n) *Decease*. See St. *Luke 9.* &c. who is more large on this than all the other Evangelists.

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ST MATTHEW CHAP. XVII.  
The Lunatick healed.



ST MATTHEW 17. Verse 18.<sup>107</sup>

*And JESUS rebuked the devil, and  
he departed out of him, and he was  
cured from that very hour.*

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knew not what, though nothing amiss, when he desired Jesus to give them leave to build (o) three Tabernacles there, that they might not any more comfort themselves with those beneath them.

After the Departure of these Attendants, a Cloud incircled Jesus and the Disciples, and a Voice came out of the Cloud and said, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear him.* When Peter, James and John, heard the Voice from Heaven, which undoubtedly was a most glorious Voice, they were struck with Fear and Astonishment, and fell down prostrate. But the Cloud quickly disappearing, freed the Disciples from the Fear it had put them in. So they waited on their Lord down the Hill, who, as he went along, commanded them Silence; which they observed till the Resurrection.

The Day after, a Lunatick, that was fore troubled with a Devil who sought to destroy him with Fire and Water, was by his Father brought to Jesus, intreating him to heal his Son. He had in vain addressed himself to the Disciples that staid behind him, when he retir'd to the Mount, but by reason of their want of Faith they could effect no Cure. Upon this Jesus rebuk'd those Disciples, accused them of Infidelity and Perverseness, that he having been so long with them, having given them Power to heal Diseases and cast out Devils, and in some Cases prescribed (p) Prayer and Fasting as the Means of doing it, they now should neglect those Means, and consequently not be able to cast out this Devil: This Impotency therefore was their Fault, and as such is here charged upon them; and having done chiding them, he calls for the Lunatick to be brought to him: And when he came, Jesus commanded the evil Spirit, that brought the Disease on him, to be gone; and the Devil and the Disease departed from him together.

(o) *Three Tabernacles.* Beda de *Locus Sanctis*, c. 17. says, some devout persons in memory of the Mystery of the Transfiguration of our blessed Lord,

did erect three Churches in the same Place in After-Ages.

(p) *Prayer.* See *Mat.* 17. 21.



From thence Jesus departed privately into *Galilee*, and in his Journey repeated those melancholick Sadnesses of his approaching Passion; which so (q) afflicted the Spirits of his Disciples, that they dare not put that Question any further upon him, lest he should take occasion to interweave something of that unpleasant Argument with it.

Whilst Jesus abode in *Galilee*, he kept himself as (r) private as he could, telling his Disciples the Reason of his so doing, because having done so many Miracles among them, which wrought so little Effect upon them, as that he foresaw he should soon be put to Death by them, he thought it not yet seasonable to do any more; till by the Addition of his Resurrection from Death, he should be more likely to be received and believed by them.

Jesus being now at *Capernaum*, the Collectors of the (s) Tribute came to *Peter*, asking him if his Master paid the accustomed Imposition, which was exacted from all the Sons of *Israel*, from twenty Years old and above, to pay for Redemption and Propitiation, and for the Use of the Tabernacle? When *Peter* came into the House where Jesus was, with design to acquaint him with the Officer's Demand, Jesus knowing the Message with which he was big, prevented him, by asking, "Of whom do the Kings of the Gentiles take Tribute, of their own Children or of Strangers?" *Peter* answered, of Strangers. "Then," said Jesus, are the Children free." Meaning, that since the Gentile Kings do not exact Tribute of their own Household, then this Tribute, which is paid to God for his Temple, did not belong to him, who was his Son, nor them that were his Domesticks, to pay. "Yet, says he, to avoid Offence, and that they shall not say that I condemn the Temple, or despise the Authority that requires it, which would be an

(q) Afflicted. See *Luke* 9. 45.

*Mat.* 17. 23.

(r) Private. See *Mat.* 17. 22.

*Mark* 9. 30.

(s) Tribute. This was the Tribute which every Jew paid yearly to the Temple, to the value of fifteen Pence.

*Exod.* 30.

"Occasion

Occasion to them to reject and sin against my Doctrine, go and cast a Hook into the Lake, and the first Fish which thou shalt catch, when thou openest its Mouth, thou shalt in it find a Piece of Money, pay that for me and thee."

Our Saviour having a little before mention'd his Resurrection from Death, his Disciples, supposing his Kingdom to commence from that, fall upon an ambitious and mistaken Dispute, who should have the chief Place of Dignity in that Kingdom of the *Messias*? Still imagining it to be an external secular Royalty, and each desiring to be highest in the Favour of their Prince. But Jesus, from whose all-searching Eye the most intimate Thoughts of Man cannot be conceal'd, by an early Admonition checks their growing Pride and aspiring Ambition; and being willing by some Emblem or visible Representation to satisfy this Question of theirs, as far as was useful to them, takes a little Child, and sets him in the midst of them, proposing him as a Pattern of Humility and Simplicity; such Infant-Candour and Lowliness of Spirit being the necessary Gate through which all must pass that will enter into the Courts of Heaven: and to instruct them the better how to imitate this Pattern of Meekness, he tells them; "Unless you change your Inclinations and Desires, restrain this vain ambitious Expectation and Pursuit of a carnal Kingdom of Christ, and the Desires of Dignities and Distinctions in it, you can never be true Disciples of Christ." And from this Instance of Humility in the Hieroglyphick Child, he informs them that the State of Christianity is such, as that he who is most lowly is most capable of Eminence in it: and that mean and lowly persons are so highly valued by him, that he that would be thought to do a grateful Thing to Christ, should find no fitter Way to express it than by a kind and tender Treatment of such, especially in cherishing their Souls, and advancing them in the Way of

*Resurrection. See Mat. 17. 23. Mark 9. 31.*

Godliness

Godliness. Whereas on the other side, he that shall persecute, or any way molest and drive away from Christ, and the Practice of Christianity, any such mean and lowly Person, 'twere better for him that shall thus offend, that a Mill-stone were hung about his Neck, and that he were cast into the Sea, where the Weight would inevitably and soon sink him to the Bottom. From this Emblem of the Child, Jesus discoursed of the Care of God over little Children, whether naturally or spiritually such; of the Danger of doing them any Injury or Scandal; the Care and Power of their Guardian Angels: and then warning them before-hand of the Necessity in the Event that Scandals should arise, and of the great Woe and Infelicity of those Persons who were the active Instruments of such Offences, he tells them, that though there will be great Apostatizing amongst those that receive the Faith, and that the Doctrine of Christ shall meet with great Discouragement and Opposition; and that though God shall think fit to permit Enemies for the Exercise and Trial of Christians, yet this will be no matter of Excuse, but rather of Aggravation of their Sin and Woe, that shall be the Authors and Instruments of this End. To confirm his Disciples therefore against such sad Occasions, he thus cautions them

“ If any thing that is nearest to thee, whether Friend  
 “ Pleasure or Profit, (as dear to thee as any Member  
 “ of thy self) shall go about to disturb or discourage  
 “ thee in thy Christian Course and Profession, be sure  
 “ to renounce it; for it is more eligible for thee  
 “ through Difficulties and Austerities to gain eternal  
 “ Bliss, than by escaping them to run into Sin, and  
 “ hazard everlasting Fire. The Son of Man came  
 “ to reduce those that are gone astray from the Ways  
 “ of God, to shew that ye ought to be diligent and  
 “ industrious in keeping in the Way of Truth the meanest  
 “ Person on Earth, that is in any danger of Ruin  
 “ to the Soul. For judge, I pray you, pursues  
 “ by this ordinary Resemblance: If a man be possi-

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ST MATTHEW CHAP. XVIII.<sup>20</sup>  
The wicked servant.



ST MATTHEW 18. Verſe 28.<sup>III.</sup>

*And the ſame ſervant went out, and found one  
of his fellow ſervants, which owed him an hun-  
dred pence, and he laid hands on him etc.*

“ fed of an hundred Sheep, and one of them happen  
“ to stray from the rest, doth he not set so great a Va-  
“ lue on that one Sheep that is lost, as at the present  
“ to leave the ninety and nine, and to go and search  
“ sollicitously for that one? And upon finding it, is  
“ he not affected with more Joy at the first Sight of it,  
“ than he is at the beholding his whole Flock, which  
“ had never run that Hazard? Thus is it with God;  
“ he is unwilling that the meanest Person on Earth  
“ should be lost, that might with any Care or Me-  
“ thod be recover’d: To this purpose these Directi-  
“ ons I now give, I require to be observed in the (v)  
“ Church for ever. If in the Traverses of Life, Dis-  
“ contents and Injuries do arise, let the injured Per-  
“ son demean himself with the greatest Prudence and  
“ Tendernefs: First, reprove the offending Party  
“ privately; and if he repent, forgive him for ever,  
“ with a Mercy as unwearied and as multiplied as  
“ his Repentance. For the Servant to whom his Lord  
“ forgave ten thousand Talents, because he refused  
“ to forgive his Fellow-Servant an hundred Pence,  
“ was deliver’d to the Tormentors, till he should  
“ pay that Debt which his Lord once forgave, till  
“ the cruel Servant’s Impiety forced him to repent  
“ his Donative and Remission. But if the Person of-  
“ fending refuses the Charity of private Correction,  
“ let him be reprov’d before a few Witnesses; and if  
“ he still continue incorrigible, let him be brought  
“ to the Tribunal of the Church, against whose Cen-  
“ sures if he shall dare to kick, let him feel her Pow-  
“ er, and be cut off from her Communion of Saints,  
“ becoming in the Eyes of all Men as an Heathen or  
“ a Publican.” And to preserve the Church in Repu-  
“ tation and Power, that she should not seem to have  
“ dead and ineffectual Hand in her Animadversions  
“ and Censures, Jesus promises to all his Apostles what  
“ he had before promised them in the Person of St. Peter,  
“ Power of binding and loosing upon Earth; and that

(v) Church. See Mat. 18. 17.

it should be ratified in Heaven what they shall so dispose on Earth; assuring them, that as the Assize of three Men among the *Jews* had some Power, so shall any two or three Christians join'd in such a Reprehension be considerable in this Matter, having the Privilege of God's Presence (as in their Prayers thus united, so in their united Admonitions) to give them Authority, Assistance and Blessing: For where two or three are assembled together for this Piece of Discipline, or any holy Action besides, there, says he, am I present in a special manner, and will not suffer the Actions which they thus undertake by my Appointment to be set at nought by any.

Whilst the Blessed Jesus was giving these Instructions to his Disciples, St. *John* interrupted him, by telling him of a Stranger that cast out Devils in the Name of Jesus; but, because he was not of the Family, he had forbidden him: of which Jesus in no way approv'd; for in all Reason he that saw the Name of Jesus so powerful and triumphant over Devils, should have done Veneration to the Person, as well as invoked the Name, or us'd it as an Instrument of ejecting impure Spirits.

(w) About this Time the Feast of Tabernacles drawing near, the Blessed Jesus was very much importun'd by his Kindred to go to *Judea* to the Feast, that the Multitudes which followed him might again see the Miracles which he did; for they thought he acquired no Fame by doing his Miracles privately. But these Things were urg'd by them through want of Faith. However, Jesus to set them right, tells them, that it was not yet proper for him to be so publick, because the Doctrine that he taught was odious to the World; (x) for at that time the *Jews* sought to kill him. He told them, that they might appear where they would, being not under any such (y) Hatred as he was from the *Pharisees* and *Sadducees*.

(w) See *John* 7. 1, 2, 3, 4, &c.

(x) See *ibid.* v. 1.

(y) Hatred. The Text here imported in *John* 7. 7. is translated thus; *Up*

Upon this Conference his Disciples went up to the Feast, to which Jesus designing to go in private, as he passed through *Samaria*, he found the Inhabitants of a little Village so (z) inhospitable, as to refuse him Entertainment; which so provok'd the intemperate Zeal of *James* and *John*, that they fain would have called for Fire to consume them, even as *Elias* did. But Jesus, with a Sweetness of Aspect natural to him, mildly corrects and restrains their revengeful Heat, tells them they were quite mistaken in the Oeconomy and Conduct of the Christian Spirit, which he had prescribed, and which differ'd much from that of a Prophet in the Old Testament, moved by Zeal against the Enemies of God: "The Course" (said he) which in such Cases you must take, is that of Meekness and Persuasion, and not rashly and indiscreetly, upon every little Umbrage of Displeasure, invoke the Vengeance of Heaven to destroy a Man, whose Redemption was to cost the Effusion of his Saviour's Blood. I came not (continues he) to kill any, but to preserve and rescue from Death, and from all that is ill." All the Revenge that Jesus took, was quietly to leave the Place: But to demonstrate more plainly to those Disciples, whose mistaken Conduct he had blamed, how they ought to behave themselves upon such Occasions, by a Miracle he shews them, that they must recompense Evil with Good. And immediately ten leprous Persons,

could not hate you, but me it hated, &c. This Translation is literal indeed; but all or most Interpreters fail to observe, that this Expression does not always denote an absolute Impossibility to do any Thing, but only a Difficulty or Will not to do it, upon the Account of some Difficulty or Uneasiness it may be attended with; and this they prove from several unquestionable Examples. 'Tis said, *Gen. 19. 22. That Lot could not do any Thing to Sodom* and *Lot had left it*: And *Gen. 37. 4. That Joseph's Brethren could not speak peaceably unto him*: That the unkind

Friend, *Luke 11. 7. could not rise to lend his Friend three Loaves*; with several others. But it is certain, that God, if he had pleas'd, could have destroy'd *Sodom* independently of *Lot*; that *Joseph's Brethren* could have spoken peaceably to him, &c. Therefore all this Impotency implied in the Words *can not*, is to be attributed to the want of Will: And since People are so ready to take these Places literally, it is proper they should be render'd, *They would not*, and not, *They cannot*.

(z) See *Luke 9. 51. and 17. 11.*



who came out of the Neighbourhood where he had been so inhospitably treated, presented themselves with loud and sad Exclamations for Help, "Jesus, Master, have mercy upon us." His Compassion was as ready to relieve, as their Necessity to ask; for at sight he pronounces the Method of their Cure: "Go shew yourselves to the Priest, as the Law requires (which he was always tender of violating) and before you come thither, you shall be healed:" Which accordingly fell out; for as they were on their Way, they were all cured. But see the innate Ingratitude of humane Nature! Of the ten who receiv'd this miraculous Blessing, but one poor Wretch return'd to give Thanks, and he a Stranger; who, before he was cured, by reason of the Uncleaness of his Disease, was forced to stand afar off, joyfully approaches his Divine Physician, with a loud Voice glorifying God, and in humble Prostration throwing himself at his Feet, gives Thanks to the Holy Jesus.

The Blessed Jesus, being now arriv'd at *Jerusalem*, for some Days did not appear in the publick Meetings, though at the same time he heard of the various Opinions of Men concerning him; some saying that he was a good Man, others that he deceiv'd the People; and the Pharisees sought for him to do him a Mischief. But when they despaired of finding him in the midst of the Feast among the People, they repair to the Temple, where they find him preaching openly, to the great Surprize and Amazement of those that knew his Parentage and Education; for they marvelled saying, "How comes he to understand the Law and Scriptures so well, having not been brought up in the Schools of the Prophets?" But notwithstanding Jesus had convinced them by the Variety and Divinity of his Miracles and Discourses; yet so perverse and obstinate were they, that they gave the greatest Testimony in the World of humane Weakness, and how prevalent a Prejudice is above the Confidence and Conviction of a Demonstration: For a Proverb, Mistake

ST LUKE CHAP. XVII. 27  
JESUS cleanseth ten lepers.



ST LUKE 17. Verse 12. 114.

*And as he entred into a certain Village, there met him ten men that were lepers, that stood afar off.*

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Mistake, a mere Error in matter of Circumstance, did in their Understandings out-weigh Multitudes of Miracles and Arguments of which they had been Witnesses, and which before had convinced them; for Christ being of *Galilee*, because of the Proverb, *That out of Galilee comes no Prophet*, and because the Rulers did not believe in him, these out-weighed the Demonstrations of his Mercy, Power, and Divinity. But notwithstanding these Opinions of some, yet very many believed on him, and no Man durst lay hands on him to take him; for as yet his Time was not come, in which he meant to give himself up to the Power of the *Jews*: And therefore when the Pharisees sent Officers to seize him, they also became his Disciples, being surpriz'd at the Excellency of his Doctrine. And not only the inferior Officers, but the Rulers were suspected; for *Nicodemus*, the same that by Stealth and in the Night came before to Jesus, seeing with what Prejudice the Pharisees persecuted him, could not forbear interposing, urging the Unreasonableness of condemning any Person without hearing. Upon which they reproach him for taking a *Galilean's* Part, *Art thou, one of the Sanhedrin, a Follower of the Galilean?* *Examine all Times, you shall never find that Galilee hath brought forth a Prophet.*

In the Evening Jesus went to the Mount of *Olivet* on the East of *Jerusalem*, and the next Day returned again into the Temple; where the Scribes and Pharisees brought him a Woman taken in the Act of Adultery, tempting him to give Sentence, that they might accuse him of Severity or Intermeddling, if he condemn'd her, or of Remissness and Popularity, if he did acquit her. But Jesus found out an Expedient for their Difficulty, and changed the Scene by bidding the innocent Person among them cast the first Stone at the Adulterers; and then stooping down to give them a fair Occasion to withdraw, he wrote upon the Ground with his Finger, whilst they left the Woman and her Crime to a more private Censure. None remaining now but Jesus and the Woman, she standing before him in the Posture of



an accused Criminal before a Judge; he lifting up himself, and finding none but the Woman, asked her what was become of her Accusers, or whether any one had condemn'd her? She answer'd, *No Man, Lord.* Neither do I, said he, *but call thee to Repentance and Reformation:* And charging her to sin no more, he dismissed her.

A while after Jesus begins again to discourse to the *Jews* of his (a) Mission from God, telling them that he was the Light of the World, and that whoever would follow him should receive that Illumination which should guide him to eternal Light. The *Jews* refuse to believe him, because of his own single Testimony of himself: To which he replied, "You that know not my  
 " divine Extraction, judge of me only according to my  
 " human Original, and in proportion to that give your  
 " Opinion of me; but yet if I should do so, my Judgment  
 " would be valid according to Law, because this  
 " is the Judgment and Testimony of my Father, who  
 " by his Spirit and Miracles, and his Voice from Heaven  
 " requiring all to believe on me, must needs judge  
 " them as obstinate Unbelievers, who shall stand out  
 " against all this. It is the known Custom of all Laws,  
 " particularly of yours (*Deut. 17. 6.*) that the Testimony  
 " of two Men is to be received in any Cause whatsoever:  
 " And I and my Father are those two; for as  
 " I now witness of my self in a Cause that concerns you,  
 " so my Father also, by a Voice from Heaven, by Descent  
 " of the Spirit, by Miracles and Prophecies, testifies  
 " my Commission from him." But the *Jews* regarding  
 " only his human Extraction, Jesus replied, "You  
 " will not receive any Knowledge concerning me or  
 " my Father: Your Acknowledgment of me is the only  
 " Way to bring you to the Knowledge of my Father.  
 " I shall depart from you, and then ye will seek me  
 " unprofitably; and by not believing me now, ye will  
 " bring Judgments upon your selves hereafter. After  
 " the *Romans*, at your Instigation, shall (b) crucify  
 " me, there will be such Evidences of my being truly

(a) Mission. See *John 8. v. 12, 13, 15, &c.* (b) Crucify. See *John 8. v. 28.*

" what

“ what ye will not now believe me to be, that you  
“ shall have no Excuse to deny it; then shall you be  
“ convinced, either to the working of your Repen-  
“ tance or Destruction, that I am the *Messias*, and  
“ came from God, and do nothing but according to  
“ my Commission from him.” Upon this many of the  
“ Jews (c) believed; to whom addressing himself, he  
“ says, “ If ye constantly practise my Commands, ye are  
“ truly and really my Disciples, and those Truths which  
“ I shall reveal to you shall procure you a most valua-  
“ ble Freedom.” The other Jews then present, that  
“ were not Believers, taking this as a Reflection on them,  
“ said, “ We are Heirs to the Promises made to (d) A-  
“ braham, and were never yet Slaves to any Man;  
“ how then do we need Freedom?” Jesus answered  
“ them, “ I do (e) assure you, you are mistaken in think-  
“ ing your selves to be free, for there are no such Slaves  
“ as those that live indulgent in Sin; and being such,  
“ you are far from having any Right to be continued  
“ in God’s Family, which belongs only to (f) Sons.  
“ In the common Account of the World, a Servant is  
“ so far from being a Son, or having any Right to the  
“ Inheritance of the Family, that he is at the mercy  
“ of the Heir when he comes to Age to cast him quite  
“ out of the Family; and unless the Son make him  
“ free, he cannot be free. And this is the Case of all  
“ such as you, of every indulgent Sinner; Christ must  
“ free him from his spiritual Bondage of Sin, before he  
“ can be capable of any Benefit of being a Son, even  
“ of a Son by Adoption.” The Jews then valuing  
“ themselves upon their being the Children of Abraham  
“ and of God, he tells them to the first, That if they  
“ were Abraham’s Children they would be like him in his  
“ Obedience and Virtues, as Children resemble their  
“ natural Parents in their Nature and Form. And as to  
“ their being the Children of God, he tells them, Their  
“ hatred to him is a certain Argument that God is not

(c) Believed. See John 8. 30.

(d) Abraham. See John 8. 33.

(e) Assure. See John 8. 34.

(f) Sons. See John 8. 35. and so  
on to the End of the Sermon.

their Father: " For (says he) I am sent immediately  
 " from God, I came from Heaven, and what I do is  
 " by Commission from God. Ye imitate the Devil, who  
 " from the Beginning was malicious, proud, and bloo-  
 " dy, and soon apostatiz'd from God and the right  
 " Way; for he is an Enemy to Truth, and therefore  
 " for him to lye, and confirm you in Infidelity, is na-  
 " tural to him. I am sure you have no Fault or Im-  
 " posture to lay to my Charge, and yet ye will not be-  
 " lieve the Truth when I speak it. If ye had true Pi-  
 " ety in you, then certainly my Doctrine being from  
 " God would be acceptable to you, and ye would im-  
 " brace it." To this the *Jews* could make no Reply,  
 but fell into reproachful Language, calling him (g) *Sa-*  
*maritan* and (h) *Mad-man*; and misunderstanding on  
 what Grounds he gave himself the Preference before  
*Abraham*, thinking that he had spoken Blasphemy, re-  
 solved to confute him to purpose, for they took up  
 Stones to cast at him: But he went out of the Tem-  
 ple, and miraculously preserved himself, passing safely  
 through the midst of them.

But in his Passage he met a Man who had been born  
 blind; and being asked by some of his Followers whe-  
 ther it was the Man's own Sin, or some Sin of his Pa-  
 rents, that caused this Blindness, he told them, That  
 this Blindness was not sent as a Punishment for his own  
 or his Parents Sin, but as an Occasion to make publick  
 the Glory of God: And Jesus, to demonstrate that him-  
 self was the Light of the World in all Senses, said it

(g) *Samaritan*. This Title of *Sama-*  
*ritan* is here fixed on Christ by way of  
 Reproach, not that they thought him so,  
 but because this was an odious Name a-  
 mong the *Jews*: Or else because he  
 conversed with the *Samaritan* Woman,  
 which was against the *Jewish* Rule,  
*John* 4. 9. he is thought a Deserter of the  
*Jewish* Law, and so to be one of them.

(h) *Mad-man*. This is render'd, *thou*  
*hast a Devil*. All sorts of Diseases were  
 brought on Men sometimes by the De-  
 vil; and so generally they that were  
 brought to Christ for Cure, are said to

be possess'd, but especially those who  
 were more strangely affected without  
 any visible Cause of it, were generally  
 thought to suffer this from the Devil's  
 getting Power to possess them; and of  
 this sort, especially Mad-men, who be-  
 ing not discernably sick, did yet behave  
 themselves as if they were in some strong  
 Distemper, which is oft an Effect of Dis-  
 ease, and therefore by them supposed to  
 be possessed by some evil Spirit. So  
*Justin Martyr*, Apol. 2. *They that are*  
*possessed are by all Men called mad.*

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ST JOHN CHAP. IX. <sup>24</sup> The blind man  
went his way, and washed, and came seeing.



ST JOHN 9 Verse 7. <sup>119.</sup>  
JESUS said unto him, Go wash in *the* pool of Si-  
loam (which is by interpretation Sent). He went  
his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

now, and prov'd it by a Miracle; for sitting down he made Clay of Spittle, and anointing the Eyes of the blind Man, bid him go and wash in (i) *Siloam*. The (k) blind Man joyfully obeys, and went and washed as he was commanded, and returned seeing; which so amazed his Neighbours, that they questioned whether this was the same Man that used to beg. He told them positively he was the same Man, and gratified their Curiosity, in telling them who was his Physician, and the Method of his Cure. This Miracle being performed on the Sabbath-Day, the Pharisees lay hold on the Advantage to lessen Jesus, saying, *This Man cannot be of God, because he violateth the Sabbath*. But others with less Prejudice said, *Certainly such Miracles cannot be wrought but by the Finger of God, and therefore cannot be the Work of an Impostor, or a Man of Sin*. The incredulous Jews would not believe Matter of Fact in the Man that was blind; and thinking to make the Thing look intricate, and beyond the Capacity of the Vulgar, who they fear'd might by these Miracles be induced to believe on Jesus, sent for the Parents of the Man who was restored to his Sight, of whom they ask'd these three Questions, Whether he was their Son? Whether he was born blind? And whether they knew how, or by whom he was cured? To the two first

(i) *Siloam*. This was a Pool of limbeck Water, which God sent at the Prayer of *Isaiah* the Prophet a little before his Death, to satisfy the Necessities of his People, oppressed with Thirst and a close Siege; and it stood at the Foot of the Mount *Sion*, and gave its Water at least by Returns and Periods, always to the Jews, but not to the Enemies. And those intermitted Springings were still continued, but only a Pool was made from the frequent Efflux of it.

(k) *Blind Man*. Libertines and Atheists read the Scriptures but to profane them; and therefore when they meet with any Thing that they think interferes with Reason or Sense, they fail not to make a Game of the sacred Text, though in it self proper enough as it stands. There are many seeming Passa-

ges of this Kind, viz. *St. John* 9. 17. The blind Man is called blind after he had received his Sight; and this is rightly translated from the Greek. We are therefore to consider, that it is the Style of the Scriptures, and of all Languages, sometimes to give to Persons, and likewise to inanimate Things, the Qualities they formerly had, though they have them no more. Thus in *Exod.* 7. 12. *Moses's* Rod is called a Rod when it was changed into a Serpent; and those who were cured of their Blindness, Deafness, and Lameness, *Mat.* 11. 5. *John* 9. 17. are called the Blind, the Deaf, and the Lame; and *Mat.* 26. 6. and 10. 3. *Simon* is called the Leper, after he was cured of his Leprosy, and *Matthew* called the Publican, after he had quitted that Employment.

Questions they answer directly, *We know him to be our Son, and that he was born blind; but how, or by whom he recovered his Sight, he himself best knows; he is of Age, let him answer for himself.* The poor Parents durst say no more; for they had been before caution'd by Agreement among the *Jews*, which was, That if any Man did confess Christ he should be turn'd out of the Synagogue; and therefore they refer them for a further Answer to their Son. Him therefore they a second time examine, attempting to draw him from that Opinion of Christ which he seemed to have, by bidding him ascribe the Praise of his Cure wholly to God, and not to look on Christ with any Veneration; telling him, That if he did it on the Day, and in the Manner afore-mentioned, it was thereby evident that he had broken the Sabbath, and so came not from God, but was an Impostor, who consequently had no such Virtue or Piety as could contribute any thing to this Matter. The poor Blind still retains his Gratitude, and will not recede from the Truth: *For, saith he, whether he be a Sinner, or no, I know not; but this I certainly know, That whereas I was blind, I now through him enjoy the Blessing of Sight.* This Recognition of Jesus by the poor Man incenses the *Jews*, insomuch that they tax him with being a Disciple; that themselves were the Disciples of *Moses*, but as for Jesus they knew not whence he was. The poor Man in the Simplicity and Zeal of his Heart, willing to do Justice to his Physician, says, "It's strange that one should do such Miracles as these, and you learned Men know not whether he be sent from God or not. It is certain on all hands, that an Impostor or false Teacher is not enabled by God to work such Miracles as these, but only pious faithful Servants of God, that came to do his Will, not their own. It is above all human Power to open the Eyes of one born blind: If he were not sent and empower'd by God, he could never do such things as these." This provoked them so, that they first stigmatize him with the greatest Reproach imaginable.

ginable, that his being born blind was a Mark and Character of some extraordinary Ill in him, which made him very unfit to teach Doctors and Rabbies in Matters of this Moment; and then they cast him out of the Synagogue with Disgrace. But Jesus meeting him, received him into the Church; for he told him he was Christ, and the Man became inlighten'd, believed on him, and paid the Acknowledgment and Adoration to him, that was due to the Messias. But the Pharisees blasphemed: For such was the Dispensation of the divine Mysteries, that the blind should see, and they who think they see clearly should become blind, because they had not the Excuse of Ignorance to lessen or take off the Sin; but in the midst of Light they shut their Eyes, and doted upon Darknefs, therefore did their Sin remain,

Notwithstanding the Obstinacy of the *Jews*, and the repeated Instances of their Malice and Prejudice against Jesus and his Doctrine, he continued his Sermon to the Pharisees, insinuating Reprehensions in his dogmatical Discourses, which like Light shined through, and discover'd Error: For talking of the Properties of a good Shepherd, and the lawful Way of Intromission, he proved them to be Thieves and Robbers, because they refused to enter in by him, who is the Door of the Sheep. And upon the same Ground he reprov'd all those false Christs who before him usurped the Title of *Messias*, and proved his own Vocation and Office by an Argument which no other Shepherd would use, Because he laid down his Life for his Sheep. Some would eat the Flesh, others would take the Fleece; but none but himself would die for his Sheep: But he should die first, and then would gather his Sheep together into one Fold; intimating hereby the Calling of the *Gentiles*. To which purpose he was inabled by his Father to lay down his life, and to take it up; and had also indeared them to his Father, that they should be preserved unto eternal Life, and no Power should be able to take them out



out of his Hand, or the Hand of his Father. For because Jesus was united to the Father, the Father's Care preserved his Son's Flock. But the *Jews*, to requite him for these divine Sermons and excellent Discourses, resume their old Argument of taking up Stones to cast at him, pretending he had blasphemed: But Jesus proved it to be no Blasphemy to call himself the Son of God, because they, to whom the Word of God came, are in Scripture called Gods. But nothing could satisfy them, whose temporal Interest was concerned not to consent to such Doctrine, which would save their Souls by ruining their worldly Advantages.

After this the *Jews* sought again to take him, but he escaped out of their Hands, and went away beyond *Jordan*, where *John* at first baptized; which gave the People Occasion to remember that *John* had done no Miracle, but Jesus had done many. Besides, *John*, whom all Men did revere and highly esteem for his Office and Sanctity, gave Testimony to Jesus. Thus by comparing these Things, many were inclined to believe in him.

After this, Jesus knowing that the Harvest was great, and as yet few Labourers; and that there were many ready to receive the Gospel when it should be preached to them, thought it needful to pray the Lord of the Harvest to incline Mens Hearts to undertake this Office of going and revealing it to them; for as yet there were very few for so great a Work. Besides the twelve Apostles then, he chose (l) seventy two others, to be to him as Disciples were wont to be to Prophets, that is, to go on his Errands as he should appoint them, which they did by Turns, two at once, as Harbingers proclaiming his Approach, whither he meant to come. In the (m) Preamble of

(l) Seventy two. Of this Number were the Seven, whom afterwards the Apostles set over the Widows, and *Matthias*, *Mark*, and some say, *Luke*, *Justus*, *Barnabas*, *Apelles*, *Rufus*, *Ni-*

*ger*, *Cephas*, (not *Peter*) *Thaddaeus*, *Leviti*, *and John*. The rest of the Names could not be recover'd by the best Diligence of *Eusebius* and *Epiphanius*.

(m) See *Luke* 10. 3. &c.

their Commission he tells them they must expect to meet with Dangers and ill Treatment; " Yet let not that deter you, says he, or put you upon making Provision for your Journey. Heal the Sick, preach the Kingdom of God approaching. Wherever ye shall be ill treated, shake off the Dust of your Shoes against that Place, as a Testimony of their Obstinacy and Inhospitallity, and of their approaching Ruin. He that despiseth the Warnings that you give him, despiseth me that sent you; and he that despiseth me, despiseth God that sent me; the Affront offer'd to you is the same as if offer'd to me." The Seventy two being return'd, with great Joy address themselves to Jesus, from whom they received their Legation, telling him, that by the Power and Virtue of his Name the very Devils became subject to them. Jesus told them it was no Wonder, for he had beheld (n) Satan as Lightning fall from Heaven; that is, it was determin'd that in a short time the Prince of Devils should be dethron'd, and fall from his great Power in the World, as Lightning when it flasheth and vanisheth. Moreover Jesus, to shew the Satisfaction he received from their faithful Legation, enlargeth their Commission by an additional general Power over the Enemy in all manner of Circumstances, together with an Immunity from all Danger. Then it was that the Blessed Jesus (o) rejoiced in Spirit, giving Glory to God that he had made Revelations to Babes, and the more imperfect Persons: This was an Act of infinite Wisdom, Mercy, and Condescension to the Weakness of Man, mix'd with all Justice towards the Contemners of his Promises.

About this time a Student of the Law came to try his Judgment about the Law or Rule of Life, and ask'd him what was necessary to be observed for the attaining that eternal Life which Christ promised? He answer'd, The very same which in the Law of

(n) Satan. See Luke 10. 18.

(o) Rejoiced. See Luke 10. 17. Mat. 11. 25.

*Moses* is set down as the main substantial Part of the Law, which he therefore bid him recite to him; and he recited the Summary of the Law in these Words, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy Heart, with all thy Soul, with all thy Strength, and with all thy Mind, and thy Neighbour as thy self. The due Performance of this, says *Jesus*, is all that I now require of thee to Salvation." But the captious Lawyer being scrupulous without Reason, demands what is meant by Neighbour? This Question *Jesus* thought best to answer thus by a Parable: "A certain Traveller going from *Jerusalem* to *Jericho* was set upon by Thieves, who not only rifled him of his Clothes and Money, but so dangerously wounded him, that they left him expiring on the ground. By chance a Priest came that way, and saw the poor Wretch weltering in his Blood: But the Horror of the Sight did not affect him, he passes along unconcern'd. Next comes a *Levite*, as void of Tenderness and Humanity as the Priest. At last the dismal Groans of the poor mangled Wretch stir up the Curiosity of a *Samaritan* to see the Cause, which he no sooner discovers, but mov'd with Compassion goes to him, raises his Head, recalls his fainting Spirits, and closes his gaping Wounds with rich Balsams; then mounting him on his own Beast, he gently conveys the Man to the first Inn, where at his own cost he entertains him whilst he stay'd with him, and at his Departure promised the Host to be at whatever Expence more should happen." Our Blessed Saviour applying this Parable to the Lawyer, asked him; "Which he thought was Neighbour to the poor Traveller?" The Lawyer replied, "Undoubtedly he that was kind and careful of him." Then says he to the Lawyer, "Go thou, and do likewise." Hereby plainly intimating, that no Distance of Country or Religion destroyeth the true Notion of Neighbourhood, but every Person with whom we converse in Peace and Charity is that Neighbour. whom we are to love as our selves.

ST LUKE CHAP. X.

25

The Samaritan when he saw him had compassion on him.



ST LUKE 10 Verse 34. 124.

*And he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an Inn, and took care of him etc.*



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The Holy Jesus knowing, though not dreading, the Malice of the *Jews*, who in many repeated Instances had attempted his Life, resolves at present to prevent any Mischief by withdrawing from all popular tumultuous Places; and leaving *Jerusalem* came to a Village called *Bethany*, where he was cheerfully and generously receiv'd by *Martha*, who making great Preparation for his Entertainment, to express her Joy and Affections to his Person, desired Jesus to dismiss her Sister *Mary* from his Feet, who sat there feasting herself with the delicious Sweetnesses of his Doctrine, and altogether unmindful of the Provisions for the Entertainment. But our Lord commended *Mary's* Choice; and though he did not expressly slight *Martha's* Civility, yet he preferr'd *Mary's* Religion and Sanctity of Affection to *Martha's* Generosity. "Thou takest a great deal of unnecessary Pains, says he to *Martha*: But the only Thing which is absolutely necessary, the Hearing my Word in order to keep it, is a Thing much more acceptable to me, than the entertaining me with so much Sollicitude and Diligence; and the Advantage of this will continue to *Mary* to all Eternity."

Upon occasion of our Blessed Lord's frequent retiring to Prayer, at a Time when he was upon that Duty, his Disciples took into consideration how needful it was for them to be directed in a right Performance of that Duty, and thereupon one of them at his coming out to them besought him to give them a Form of Prayer, which they might constantly use, as *John Baptist* had done to his Disciples. Jesus therefore teaches them that Form of Prayer the second time, which we call the *Lord's Prayer*; enjoins them Assiduity and indefatigable Importunity in Prayer, by a Parable of an importunate Neighbour borrowing Loaves at Midnight, and a troublesome Widow, who by constant Application of her clamorous Addresses, forc'd the unjust Judge to do her Justice. He encourages them

them to (p) pray, by Consideration of the Divine Goodness and fatherly Affection, far more indulgent to his Sons than natural Fathers are to their nearest Issue; and adds a gracious Promise of Success to them that pray; *Ask, and it shall be given to you.* Then he exhorts them to Perseverance in (q) Prayer, to be constant and diligent in the Performance of the Duty of Prayer, not only in respect of God, to whom it is a Duty, but of themselves, whose Petitions by Assiduity are most likely to be obtain'd. After this being invited to dine with a Pharisee, he freely inveighs against the ridiculous Superstition and hypocritical Ostentation of the Pharisees; who affecting outward Neatness in their Manner of Living, neglected to cleanse their Souls from internal Impurities. Instead of which traditional Formalities he advises them to Charity, which is the best way of purifying themselves, their Estates, their Meats and Drinks; Works of Mercy being more acceptable to God than outward Washings. "Ye Pharisees, says he, give Tithes of the meanest Product of your Gardens, but omit the principal Duties to God and Man. These are the main Things which God requires of you, though those other lower Performances of paying Tithes exactly according to the Law and Customs among you, ought not to be neglected." Then pronouncing a Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees, he tells them they are like Graves overgrown with Grass; and they who see the specious Outsides of them, know not their Insides are dead Mens Bones and Putrefaction, and so are polluted by them. At this a Member of the *Sanhedrin* was so offended, that he told Jesus "This Speech of thine seems to reflect on us, and the Gravity of our Places and Persons." To which the Holy Jesus reply'd, "Woe be to you for that Hypocrisy of yours, in appearing to bear such Respect as to rebuild the Tombs of those Prophets who

(p) *Pray.* See *Luke* 11. 1.

(q) *Prayer.* See *Luke* 18. 1.

"you

“ your Fathers kill’d, you your selves having as bloody Thoughts against those that are now sent to you.”

About this time one of the Company, seeing with what Authority he reprov’d and determin’d among the People, addresses himself to our Lord saying, “ Sir, there is a Controversy between my Brother and me about dividing our Patrimony, I desire to avoid the Delays of a litigious Suit at Law, and refer the Matter to you to conclude between us.” But Jesus declin’d the Office of an Arbitrator, as not having competent Power to become Lord in temporal Jurisdictions. Then he preaches against Covetousness, and the placing Felicity in worldly Possessions, applying to his Occasion the Parable of a rich Man, whose Store was too large for his Barns, but large enough for his Soul ; for projecting with himself to enlarge his Barns and lay up all in them, never thinking in the least of dispensing to the Necessity of others, any Part of that which he knew not what to do with, he propos’d to indulge himself in Voluptuousness, and stupidly enjoy himself in his perishing Goods : But he was soon snatch’d from the Possession of them, and his Soul taken from him in the Violence of a rapid and nasty Sickness in the space of one Night. This is directly the Case of every one that makes no use of his Increase and Plenty, but only to possess it, and provide for himself by it ; not thinking of employing what he hath to spare to the Relief of the necessitous, and the Service of God. Then discoursing of the divine Providence and Care over us, he descends to demonstrate it so low as in the wild Flowers and Grass of the Field, those beautiful Ornaments of Nature, which the Providence of God nourishes and preserves. “ Entertain not therefore (says he) any solicitous Thoughts about your worldly Affairs, let no uneasy Anxieties disturb your Minds for such Things ; for your heavenly Father, who design’d you to an everlasting Kingdom, will not fail to allow you

“ your



“ your Portion here of those Things that are useful for you.” Then he again exhorts to Alms-deeds, to Watchfulness and Preparation against the sudden and unexpected Coming of our Lord to Judgment, or the Arrest of Death. And in Answer to *Peter's* Question, whether Christ spoke particularly to his Apostles and Disciples, or to all, he describes the Offices and Sedulity of the Clergy, under the Apologue of Stewards and Governors of their Lord's Houses; teaches them Gentleness and Sobriety, and not to do evil upon the Confidence of their Lord's Absence and Delay; and instructs the People even of themselves to judge what is right concerning the Signs of the Coming of the Son of Man. And the End of all these Discourses was, that all men should repent and live good Lives and be saved.

Whilst Jesus was pressing these Discourses to the People, there were present some that told him of the (r) *Galileans*, whose Blood *Pilate* mingled with their Sacrifices. Jesus reply'd, that these external Accidents, though they be sad and calamitous, are yet no Arguments of Condemnation against the Persons of the Men, to convince them of greater Guilt than others, upon whom no such visible Signatures have been imprinted. The Purpose of such Chances is, that we should repent, lest we perish in the like Judgment, applying to this the Parable of the barren Fig-Tree, which after much Care and Expence bare no Fruit intimating thereby, “ This People hath been long unprofitable, made no Returns to God's Husbandry bestowed on them, and yet God hath given them Space to repent, and sent his Son to dress and manure them; and if this do not work upon them

(r) *Galileans*. These were a Faction of one *Judas Gaulonita*, a sort of People that taught it to be unlawful to pay Tribute to Strangers, or to pray for the Romans; and because the Jews did both, they refused to communicate in their sacred Rites, and would sacrifice a-part: At which separate Solemnity,

when *Pilate* the Roman Deputy apprehended many of them, he ordered them to be slain, causing them to be cast upon the same Altars. These were of the Province of *Judea*, but of the same Opinion with those that taught in *Galilee*, from whence the Sect had its Appellation.

“there is nothing to be expected but Destruction and  
“Excision.”

At the same time that Jesus was teaching in one of the Synagogues, he observed a Woman that for the Space of eighteen Years had laboured under a fore Disease inflicted on her by the (s) Devil, for she did so extremely stoop, that she could not see the Heavens. Here was a proper Object for his Compassion and Power to exert themselves upon; and calling the Woman to him, he told her she was free from her Infirmary, and confirms it by Imposition of Hands; which finish'd the Cure, for the crooked Woman immediately became streight, and glorified God. Upon this miraculous Cure, a certain Ruler of the Synagogue takes occasion to renew the old Question about the Observation of the Sabbath; for it was on the Sabbath that Jesus had healed the Woman. The Ruler therefore repining at the Unseasonableness of the Action, tells him there was Time enough in the six Days of the Week to do these Offices, and not to violate the Sabbath with them. But Jesus soon made him ashamed by an Argument drawn from their own Practice, who loose an Ox from the Stall on the Sabbath, and lead him away to watering: Ought not then this Woman, says he, on whom Satan hath for so many Years inflicted a fore Disease, to be cured of it?

After this, he intending to go to *Jerusalem*, passed through the Towns and Cities of *Judea*, reinforcing the same Doctrine he had formerly taught them, and daily adding new Precepts and Cautions, and prudent Insinuations; advertising them of the (t) Multitudes of those that perish, and the Fewness of those that shall be saved; that they should not be led away with the Example of the many that neglected the present Opportunity, and after would not find Admission when they should desire it, either into the Church here, or the Kingdom of God at the Day of Judgment: That the Gospel should at length be removed from the obsti-

(s) Devil. See Luke 13. 16.

(t) Multitudes. See Luke 13. 24, &c.

nate *Jews*, and consequently Heaven also : That a great deal of Care and Industry was required to get the End of our Christian Faith and Hope, and that a little formal seeking of him, a desiring the Reward upon no farther Pretences, than that the Gospel hath been preached among them, and that they have eat and drank in Christ's Presence, would not serve the Turn, without a careful and due Performance of all that Christ requires of us. As for others, be their Pretences and Confidences ever so great, they shall at the Day of Judgment be utterly rejected, and their wicked Doings rewarded with everlasting Fire. And then what a restless Torment will it be to you, to see the Fathers of the old World, that never saw or heard Christ preach among them, as you confess you have, received by God into his Kingdom, and yourselves excluded? And that though but few *Jews* should receive the Faith, yet Disciples should come from all Quarters of the World, and be received and entertain'd in the Kingdom of God; and the *Gentiles* that are now afar off, be admitted to Christ's Favour, whilst the present *Jews* through their Obstinacy should be cast out.

Whilst Jesus was instructing the People and doing Miracles among them in this manner, some of the Pharisees, that could not with any longer Patience see his Power and hear his Doctrine, being desirous to get rid of him, for a Pretence suggested the Danger he was in from *Herod*, if he staid any longer there, saying, "Be gone out of *Galilee*, *Herod's* Jurisdiction; for if thou stay here, he will put thee to Death." But Jesus who would not in the least diminish his prophetic Character and Commission by betraying any Dread or Fear, bids them, "Go tell that subtle Person *Herod* that I attend the Decree of my Father, and in the mean time perform the Office for which I was sent, not fearing what he can do to me. Behold I cast out Devils, and cure Diseases for the present; and after a while, when my Course is finished, I am to suffer Death." After this Reprehension of *Herod*

Subtil

Subtily and Design to kill him, he prophesies that he should die at *Jerusalem*, and intimates great future Woes and Sadnesses to the *Jews*, for neglecting this their Day of Visitation, and for killing the Prophets and Messengers sent from God.

Being upon an Invitation persuaded to go on a Sabbath-Day, and dine with one of the Pharisees of great Quality, a Ruler or Member of one of their Consistories, they that had thus invited him treacherously observe what he would do, on purpose to take some Advantage against him, a Thing contrary to all Laws of Hospitality. But he knowing their Malice, by way of Prevention stopp'd their Mouths with the same Argument he used to those that reprehended him for curing the crooked Woman on the (*v*) Sabbath-Day. The Object which was before him, and by which they propos'd to insnare him, was a Hydropick Person. But Jesus to prevent their Malice asks them this Question: *Is the working a Cure on a sick Man a Thing forbidden, and so unlawful to be done on the Sabbath Day?* The Question was plain, and so home put, that his Enemies were at that time also disappointed; and Jesus taking no further notice of them cured the poor Man of his Dropsy, and dismissed him.

Whilst these Things were transacting at this Dinner, the holy Jesus observ'd how fond the Scribes and Pharisees were to take Precedency of others at the Feast; and therefore knowing their Inclinations, he spake a Parable to them, which imported how much more honourable it is for a Man to set himself below, than above his Place, and how certain a Way it is for him to get Honour: for Humility is the only Thing that is valued or commended, and thought fit to be rewarded either by God or Man. Then he reproaches them for

(*v*) Sabbath-Day. The holy Jesus, that he might draw off and separate Christianity from the Yoke of Ceremonies, by abolishing and taking off the strictest *Mosaical* Rites, chose to do very many of his Miracles upon the Sabbath, that he might do the Work of

Abrogation and Institution both at once. For though upon all Days Christ was operative and miraculous, yet many Reasons did concur and determine him to a more frequent working upon those Days of publick Ceremony and Convention.



want of Charity in their Entertainments, inviting none but those that were their Equals or Superiors, and consequently able to return their Compliment; but totally neglecting the hungry necessitous Poor. Upon this occasion one repeated that known Saying among the *Jewish* Rabbins, Blessed is he that shall eat Bread in the Kingdom of God; that is, 'tis much happier to be feasted by God in his Kingdom than by any Man on Earth. To this Christ reply'd by a (w) Similitude, confirming the Truth of what that Person said; but withal tells them, that this heavenly Feast was what they had often been invited to, but still rejected the kind Invitation, preferring their own worldly Designs and Advantages before it, for which they were rejected, and their Room supply'd by Strangers.

Going from the Pharisee's House, where he had din'd, he was attended by a mighty Concourse of People, whom he tells what they must trust to, if they intended to be his Disciples. (x) "He that doth not prefer me," says he, before all that is nearest to him, nay and Life too, is not worthy to be listed under my Discipleship. "And whosoever doth not come with a Preparation of Mind to suffer any thing rather than part with me, is not fit to ingage with me. For as he that begins to build, and hath not a Stock to hold out, leaves his Work imperfect and becomes ridiculous; or as he that designs a War, and hath not Men and Money enough to go through with it, had better never ingage in it, so he that undertakes to be a Christian, must resolve to renounce all that is precious to him in this World, or else he will not be able to hold out."

The Winter now approaching, and the *Jews* Feast of Dedication being at hand, Jesus went up to *Jerusalem* to the Feast, where he preach'd in (y) *Solomon's* Porch. The *Jews*, still jealous of the great Influence he had over the People, attempted to seize him; but he was before-hand with them: for retiring from thence,

(w) Similitude. See Luke 14. 16. of the Temple which stood entire first

(x) He. Luke 11. 26. Mat. 10. 37. the first Ruins,

(y) *Solomon's* Porch was that Part

Book V.

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ST LUKE CHAP. XV.

26

And when he came to himself he said,



ST LUKE 15 Verse 17. 18. 135.

*How many hired servants of my fathers have  
bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger?  
I will arise, and go to my father, and will say* etc.

went beyond *Jordan*, where he taught the People in an elegant and persuasive Discourse concerning the Mercy of God in accepting Penitents, in that notable Parable of the Prodigal Son ; “ whose good old Father having  
“ through much Care and Frugality heap’d up a mighty Fortune, at the Importunity of his youngest, who  
“ was now tired with the repeated Dulness of a rustick Converse, divides his Substance between his two  
“ Sons. The youngest takes his Part, and immediately sets out to see the Delicacies of distant Countries,  
“ where in a short Time and in luxurious Living he melts that Wealth his provident Father had so often  
“ sweated for. When he had spent all, a dreadful Famine afflicted that Country ; in vain he applies to those that had shar’d in the Consumption of his Fortune ; they are as much Strangers to him now, as he  
“ was to Grace in the midst of his Prodigality. Hunger, an excellent Monitor, soon instructs him what to do ; he addresses himself to a wealthy Person, from  
“ whom he receives no other Comfort than an Offer of tending his Swine. Want of Bread compels and  
“ persuades him, he with Blushes accepts the sordid Offer, and is so far from disdaining the nasty Society of those filthy Creatures, that he would gladly have  
“ shar’d with them in their coarse Food of Husks and Acorns. Whilst he meditates on his sad Condition,  
“ Necessity reduces him to his Reason, which straitway furnishes him with means to redress his Misery. He proposes first to acknowledge his Sin against  
“ his heavenly and earthly Fathers, then his own Unworthiness to be admitted to Mercy, and lastly to  
“ be restor’d to Favour. Arm’d with this pious Resolution, he directs his weary Steps towards his injur’d Father’s House. The tender Parent soon discover’d the miserable Object, and with eager Fondness ran to him, imbrac’d and kiss’d him, and reinstated him in his paternal Love ; proclaiming a Jubilee in his Family for the Return of this Prodigal, who  
“ having been dead and lost in Sin, was now alive again.”



Then he discourses of the Design of the *Messias* coming into the World, to recover erring Persons from their Sin and Danger, in the Parables of the lost Sheep and Groat. After this he taught them to employ their present Opportunities and Estates, by laying them out in Acts of Mercy and Religion, that when their Souls shall be dismissed from the Stewardship and Custody of their Bodies, they may be entertain'd in everlasting Habitations. This he inforces under the Representment of an unjust but prudent Steward, "who having abus'd his Trust, by wasting and embezzelling his Master's Goods, is call'd to make up his Accounts with speed, for he was no longer to be entertain'd under the Character of Steward. This Summons presents to his anxious Thoughts the sad Prospect of a miserable Poverty. He thought it below the Dignity of his Character to work, and was ashamed to beg. To provide therefore against the approaching Storm, he sends for his Master's Debtors, and ask'd them what they ow'd in Goods or Rent. The first tells him he ow'd a hundred measures of Oil. He bids him take his Bill with speed and make it only fifty; and so in proportion he accounts with the rest. This the unjust Steward did in hopes of being reliev'd by his Master's Debtors, when he was discarded his Service." By which Parable our Saviour shews, how provident worldly Men are to secure something for the Remainder of their Life, in respect of the Sons of Light, who are born to be injur'd and abused here yet from hence teaches them how to secure Friends which shall last long beyond this short-liv'd World. Therefore he advises them to make (2.) Provision for themselves, by so using the fading Wealth, they are intrusted with here, that when these transitory Comforts shall forsake them, they may be received into Heaven.

Where-ever the blessed Saviour of the World went the Fame of his Miracles and Doctrine attracted to him a vast Retinue, some out of Curiosity, others out

(2) See *Luke* 16. 9.

of Necessity still following him; but none so diligently watch'd, or rather pursu'd him, as the malicious Pharisees, who most industriously lay hold on all Opportunities to accuse him. The most insnaring Question they could think of, was that of Divorces; whether it was lawful for a Man upon every Occasion to put away his Wife. Jesus limiting the Permissions of these Separations to the Case of Fornication only, tells them, "Ye cannot but remember the strict Union between Man and Wife, which was appointed by God in the (a) Creation; where as soon as they were both created this was concluded on, That Man was to forsake all and cleave to his Wife, continuing as inseparably with her as with any Part of his own Flesh. And therefore since they are thus esteem'd by God, this divine Institution ought not to be altered by Man." The Pharisees thinking they now had the Advantage of the Argument, object the (b) Precept of *Moses*, wherein he allow'd the Husband in some Cases to give a Bill of Divorce to the Wife, in this manner permitting him to put her away. In answer to this Jesus re-

(a) *Genesis* 1. 27. and *ib.* 2. 24.

(b) *Deut.* 24. 1, 2, 3. The Words in

*Mar.* 19. 7. are, *Why then did Mo-*

*se command to give a Writing of Di-*

*vorce, &c.* In *Deut.* 24. 1. they are

slightly different, *Let him write her a*

*Bill of Divorcement, &c.* These Ver-

bs seem to make *Moses* and our blessed

Saviour to authorize the giving Bills of

Divorce; whence *Libertines* and *Jews*

think they have a Liberty to put away

their Wives, and look upon that Custom

as an express Commandment of God.

But the Translators have not been exact

enough in rendering the Words of the

original, which signify sometimes a

Command, sometimes a Permission. As

when *David* says, 2 *Sam.* 16. 10. *What*

*will I do with you, ye Sons of Zeru-*

*ba? Let him curse, &c.* And as when

*Isa.* 13. 3. *That he command-*

*his sanctified ones, and called his*

*prayer ones for his Anger.* When it is

possible they can signify Command,

as God so expressly forbids to curse the

King, and since he is not capable of com-

mitting Tyranny, as some have well

observ'd. These Words also sometimes signify a Promise, as *Psal.* 133. 3. where it is evident we must translate, *For God has promised the Blessing*, and not *God has commanded the Blessing*. The same Amendment must be made, *John* 10. 18. *This Promise* (not this Commandment) *I received of my Father.* And *John* 12. and 15. *And I know that his Promise is everlasting Life.* For it was not a Commandment which the Son received from the Father, *that if he did lay down his Life he might take it up again*, but a Promise mentioned *Psal.* 16. 10. *Thou wilt not suffer thine Holy one to see Corruption*; and Life eternal is also a Promise and not a Commandment. Therefore when these Expressions, which signify different Things, do occur, we ought to have regard to the Subject treated on: and since our Saviour expressly calls what *Moses* did in this matter only a Permission, *Mar.* 19. 8. and mentions the first Marriage, which was quite contrary to a Divorce, we should translate, *Why then did Moses suffer to give a Bill of Divorcement?*

plies thus : " God in the *Mosaical* OEconomy, knowing your Obstinacy and perverse Inclinations, lest you should run into greater Sins, allowed a Dispensation in this point, by tolerating Divorces. But this you see was very different from the Appointment of God in the first Institution of Marriage. And accordingly I now determine, that whosoever shall use that Liberty so frequent among you, to put away his Wife for any less Cause than that of Fornication, and then thinks himself free to marry again, that Man is guilty of Adultery in so doing; and so is he that marrieth her that is divorced, for he marrieth another Man's Wife, which is committing Adultery." Hereupon his own Disciples began to object, that if Marriage brought such an inseparable Conjunction with it, the Inconveniencies would so far outweigh the Advantages of it, that it were more advisable not to marry, than to submit to such Hazards. In answer to this Objection Jesus prefers the holy Celibate (or single Life) before the Estate of Marriage, in them to whom the Gift of Continency is given, in order to the Kingdom of Heaven.

After this, talking of God's wise Dispensation of the good Things of this World, he shews by way of Parable that we cannot easily enjoy a Heaven here and hereafter; and that the Infelicities of our Lives (if we be pious) shall end in a blessed Condition. This he exemplifies in the (c) Parable of a rich Man and a poor one (d) : " The rich man abounded in all the Comforts the World could afford, which he selfishly apply'd to his own Pride and Luxury, squandering away the Wealth of Princes to gratify his wanton Appetite. Whilst on the contrary *Lazarus* poor, sick and afflicted, his Body crusted over with Ulcers, and his Soul fainting through Hunger, in

(c) Parable. Some will have this to be a true Story, and not a Similitude; of which Number is *Euthymius*, who out of the Tradition of the Hebrews nameth him *Nymensis*. But there are

more of a contrary Opinion, and who can prove that the Title of this Passage of *Luke* 16. 19. is called, *A Parable of a King of Flesh and Blood.*  
(d) *Luke* 16. 19.

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ST LUKE CHAP. XVI.

27

The rich man lying in torments.



ST LUKE 16. Verse 23. <sup>137.</sup>

*And in hell he lift up his eyes, being  
in torments, and seeth Abraham afar  
off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*



“ vain begs the Fragments of his Extravagancies to  
“ support him. At length wearied with Cares and  
“ worn out with Diseases, poor *Lazarus* dies, and is  
“ by a Guard of Angels safely conveyed to *Abraham's*  
“ Bosom, where he receives the Reward of his former  
“ Poverty, Afflictions and Piety. Nor can the  
“ rich Man's Wealth bribe the impartial Hand of  
“ Fate; all his earthly Power cannot skreen him  
“ from the all searching-Eye of that just Judge, who  
“ without distinction to his Quality, sent a Summons  
“ for him to appear at the Bar of his Justice. In short  
“ he also dies, but takes a different Course thro the  
“ airy Regions, to what poor *Lazarus* had done;  
“ Black Fiends, instead of Angels of Light, drag him  
“ down to an Abyss of Horror and eternal Pain;  
“ where lifting up his Eyes to Heaven, he spies *Lazarus*  
“ *indulg'd* in the Arms of *Abraham*, whilst himself  
“ is afflicted with unintermitting Torments. In  
“ vain he begs for Water to cool his scorched Tongue;  
“ his Doom is pass'd, which nothing can reverse.  
“ *Abraham* rebukes his importunate Request with a  
“ mild Reply: Son, says he, all that I can impart to  
“ thee in this thy Condition is, only to tell thee what  
“ thou art now to expect, and to put thee in mind of  
“ the Reasonableness of it; for all thy Portion of  
“ Abundance and Prosperity, of uninterrupted Ease  
“ and Felicity, thou hast already enjoy'd in thy Lifetime,  
“ and spent upon thy self without communicating them  
“ to any that wanted Relief; and on the other side,  
“ *Lazarus* has had all his Portion of Afflictions already,  
“ and now 'tis but just that he should have his Bliss,  
“ and you your Torment. But besides, there is an  
“ irreversible Decree pass'd upon you and all such,  
“ and it is impossible for any to release you.  
“ Finding no Hopes for himself, he intercedes for his  
“ Relations left behind him, who by some seasonable  
“ Admonition might be caution'd from coming into this  
“ Place of Torment. *Abraham* tells him, they have  
“ *Moses* and the Prophets for their  
“ Guides

“ Guides and Instructors ; besides, *Lazarus* could  
 “ no more have Liberty to quit the Joys of Hea-  
 “ ven to go on this Errand to his Kindred, than  
 “ himself could be released from his irremediable  
 “ Pains.”

The Epilogue of this Story or Parable, besides the Moral of the wise Dispensation of our Goods to the necessitous, discovereth this Truth also, That the ordinary Means of Salvation are the express Revelation of Scripture, and the Ministeries of God’s Appointment ; and whosoever neglects these shall not be supplied with Means extraordinary, or if he were, they would be totally ineffectual.

Among the many Instances of humane frailty which daily offered to his Inspection, he took special cognizance of the Pharisaical Pride, which through a conceited Opinion of mistaken Perfection, made Men carelessly overlook their own Faults, and superciliously censure and condemn others. This the Blessed Jesus severely condemns in the following Parabolical Discourse : “ Two Men went up into the (e) Temple to pray ; the one a Pharisee, the other a Publican. The Pharisee approaches with Praise to God, but Contempt of his Brother ; and boasting of his Virtues, but forgetting his Sins, he thus presumptuously addressed himself : I thank thee, O Lord, that I am not like other Men, guilty of Extortion, Injustice, or Adultery ; or like this vile Publican, unworthy to approach thee : I fast (f) twice every Week, and pay duly my Tithes of every Thing which I possess. The humble Publican standing at

(e) Temple. In the Temple there were two Courts, one for the *Jews*, another for the *Gentile* Profelytes that lived among them. Of these *Gentile* Profelytes there were two sorts ; the Profelytes of Righteousness, who were those that had undertaken the whole Law, and were circumcised ; and the *Gentile* Profelytes of the Gates. The former of these were admitted with the *Jews* into the inner Court ; but the latter, who were not circumcised, were

by the *Jews* so far accounted unclean, according to the Law, that they were not permitted to come into that Court of the Temple called *Holy*, where the *Jews* were ; and in that Court where these latter *Gentiles* worshipped, the *Jews* kept a Market.

(f) Twice. That is, every Monday and Thursday, the second and fifth Days of the Week, on which they were wont to hear the Law read in their Synagogues.

ST LUKE CHAP. XVIII. 28  
The Pharisee and the Publican praying.



ST LUKE 18. Verse 10. 138.  
*Two men went up into the Temple  
to pray, the one a Pharisee, and the  
other a Publican.*

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“ an awful Distance in the Court of the *Gentiles*, with  
“ a dejected Heart and modest Penitence deploring  
“ his Sins, not daring so much as to lift up his guilty  
“ Eyes to Heaven, but laying his Hand upon his un-  
“ worthy yet contrite Heart, implores God’s Mer-  
“ cy on him a sinful Wretch. This Man’s mean O-  
“ pinion of himself, together with his humble Con-  
“ fession and Contrition, was more acceptable in the  
“ Sight of God than all the Pharisee’s good Actions,  
“ or arrogant Thoughts of himself.” In Confirmation  
“ of which the Holy Jesus decrees, “ That every  
“ one that exalteth himself shall be debased, and he  
“ that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

The Multitude seeing by daily Experience the great Benefit that Persons of adult Years received by the bare Touch of our Blessed Lord, desirous that their tender Babes might share in the Blessing, brought their Infants to partake of his divine Benediction. But the Disciples thinking it below the Dignity of their Master to have to do with Children, at first refused Admittance to those that brought them. But Jesus calling for the Children, chides his Disciples for their Mistake in refusing them, charging to introduce them for the future, making this excellent Use to them, *That of such was the Kingdom of Heaven*; intimating by it, That none but such as were indued with Infant-  
Innocency and Simplicity could lay any Claim to the Kingdom of Heaven. Then laying his Hands upon them, he gave them his Blessing. Happy Infants! who so early received their Saviour’s Benediction, in order to a larger Share of his Grace for the future.

Whilst the Holy Jesus was instructing the Multitude, a young Person of Condition was so charm’d with his Doctrine, that he was fond of being listed in the Number of his Disciples; and in order to qualify himself for the great Employ, he demands what is requisite to make him capable of eternal Bliss. Jesus answers him, “ That Obedience to God’s Commandments was the only Qualification.” The young  
Man



Man asks, Which? Jesus answers him, "Those given by God to *Moses*; particularly the second Table, which contains the Duty to Man. All these," says the young Man, I have exactly and sincerely observed all my Life: What more is required of me? If thou wouldst arrive, says our Blessed Saviour to the highest Pitch of Religion, in expectation of the Reward laid up in Heaven for all that sincerely obey me, freely part with all thy worldly Treasure to the Relief of the Poor; forsake that earthly Clog which weighs thee down, and thou shalt find an Advantage in an infinite Return in Heaven." Whilst our Lord pronounc'd these Words, he survey'd the Youth with Pity, who, when he found upon what Terms he must be Christ's Disciple, and that nothing less than quitting his worldly Possessions will procure him eternal Happiness, sorrowfully withdrew, being unwilling to pay so dear for that Perfection. This Advice happen'd upon a Subject very much indispos'd for it, which makes our Saviour to discourse further upon the Difficulty of a rich Man's being saved, explaining himself thereupon by the (g) Improvement of an *Hebrew Proverb*, *That it was easier for a Camel to go through the Eye of a Needle than a (h) rich Man to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven*. His Disciples hearing this were surpriz'd; they therefore ask him, Who according to this Rule is qualified for Salvation? Jesus tells them, "That to those that trust in Riches it is a Matter of so great Temptation, that it is almost impossible to escape; yet nothing is impossible with God, who can dispose the worldly Man's Heart, that he shall contemn earthly

(g) *Improvement*. It was an ordinary Proverb among the Jews, *That an Elephant cannot pass through the Eye of the Needle*, to signify the most impossible Thing. This Proverb Christ was willing to improve, by changing it from the Elephant to the Camel; a Camel being more common in Syria than an Elephant, and having a Bunch on his Back, which is apt to hinder his Pas-

sage through any narrow Entrance. For the Conjecture of Phavorinus the Grammarian, and others, that will have the Word *Camel* to be render'd a Camel, it is altogether improbable; for then it must come from *Camilos*, which cannot be, for the Text, *Mat. 19. 24.* call it *Camelos*.

(h) *Rich Man*. That is, he that trusteth in Riches.

-- Treasure

"Treasure, and place his Confidence in God only." But when the Apostles heard their Master bidding the young Man sell all, and give to the poor, and follow him, and for his Reward promised him a heavenly Treasure, *Peter*, in the Name of the rest, began to think it was their Case, and the Promise also might concern them; and asking him this Question, *What shall we enjoy who have forsaken all and followed thee?* Jesus answer'd, *That they should sit upon twelve Thrones, judging the twelve Tribes of Israel.* And extending this Mercy to every Disciple that should forsake either House, Wife or Children, or quit any Advantage and Possession in this Life, for his or the Gospel's sake, he promises them the Reward of an Hundred-fold by way of Comfort and Equivalency, and in the World to come thousands of Glories and Possessions in Fruition and Redundancy: *for they that are last shall be first, and the first shall be last.* The despised People of this World shall reign like Kings, their Contempt of it shall swell up to endless Glory, and their Poverty to an eternal Satisfaction. And these Rewards shall not be accounted according to the Privileges of Nations, or priority of Vocation, but Readiness of Mind and Obedience, and Sedulity of Operation after being called.

But lest the Disciples should not perfectly understand what he said of the *last being first, and the first last*, he explains himself in the following Parable: "A certain Landlord, whose Care was as early as the Rising-sun, went out betimes to the Market-Place, where Day-Labourers kept their Stand in expectation of Employment, to hire some to work in his Vineyard; and having agreed with a certain Number of them for a (i) Penny a Day, he set them to work. Wanting still more Help, he went out about the (k) third Hour, and in the usual Place he found several standing there to be hired, with whom he al-

(i) Penny. Our Seven-pence Halfpenny.

(k) Third Hour. About our Nine of the Clock in the Morning.

" so agreed in proportion to the Time. Again, about  
 " the (l) sixth and ninth Hour he went out, and hi-  
 " red more: And about the (m) eleventh Hour he did  
 " the same. At Night he bid his Steward call the  
 " Labourers, and pay them; and beginning with  
 " them that were last hired, he paid them the whole  
 " Day's Wages: But when they came who were  
 " first hired, and had wrought from the Morning,  
 " they thought to receive more than those who came  
 " late into the Vineyard; but they were mistaken  
 " in their Expectation, for they received no more  
 " than what they were hired for. Upon which they  
 " murmur, saying, Thou hast given them as much  
 " Wages as to us who have laboured all Day long.  
 " The Owner of the Vineyard tells them, he paid them  
 " according to their Agreement; and as for those  
 " who came later to work, it was an Act of Gene-  
 " rosity in himself to reward them as he pleased, it  
 " being their Misfortune that they were not sooner  
 " employed; and that being Master of his own For-  
 " tune, he might dispense it as he thought fit, and  
 " give as much to them that came at the eleventh  
 " Hour as to those that came first, and who laboured  
 " as honestly for the Time as they did. (n) Thus  
 " the last shall be first, and the first last."

Whilst the Blessed Jesus was in *Galilee*, he receives  
 Meslage from the two Female Disciples and Sisters  
*Martha* and *Mary*, intreating him to hasten into *Betha-*  
*ny* to relieve their sick Brother *Lazarus*, who was in

(l) Sixth and ninth Hour. Twelve  
 of the Clock at Noon, and three in the  
 Afternoon.

(m) Eleventh Hour. About five in  
 the Evening.

(n) Thus. The Sum of this Parable  
 in the Epilogue of it shews, That there  
 may be many Reasons which we know  
 not, why they that came into the Vine-  
 yard last (though they were not sooner,  
 or so powerfully, called as others) should  
 be rewarded as liberally as they that  
 have laboured longer: For a few Acts  
 of the Will, if they be more intense and  
 heroical, may in equitable Estimation

countervalue the Work of a far longer  
 Time; as the Thief's confessing Christ  
 when he was on the Cross, when his dis-  
 ciples had forsaken him; and so Peter  
 called last was in Labour more abun-  
 dant, and ranked with the first: And  
 many that came into Christ in the latter  
 of the Day, when Persecution was  
 might yet be as sincerely affectionate  
 his Service as they that suffered for him  
 And so some that come to Repentance  
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ST JOHN CHAP. XI. 20  
 JESUS raiseth Lazarus from the dead.



ST JOHN 11. Verse 43. 143

*And when JESUS thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus come forth.*



imminent Danger. But he (o) deferred his going till *Lazarus* was dead, purposing to give a great Probation of his Divinity, Power, and Mission, by a glorious Miracle, and to give God Glory. Therefore after two Days Delay he called his Disciples to go with him into *Judea*, telling them that *Lazarus* was dead, but he would raise him out of that Sleep of Death. But by that time Jesus was arrived at *Bethany*, he found that *Lazarus* had been dead four Days, and now near Putrefaction. *Martha* and *Mary* hearing of their Blessed Lord's Approach, go out to meet him, and pouring out a Flood of pious Tears for their dear Brother throw themselves at his Feet, wishing he had arrived sooner, for then they were assured their Brother had not died. At the Sight of these mourning Sisters Jesus suffer'd the Passions of Pity and Humanity, which after some Perturbation of Mind broke into Tears. After this melancholick Salutation, Jesus having by his Words of Comfort and Instruction, strengthen'd the Faith of the two Sisters, he demands to be directed to the Place where *Lazarus* was buried; and commanding the Stone to be removed from the Grave, making an Address of Adoration and Thanksgiving to his Father for his continual Readiness to hear him, he says *Lazarus, come forth*; and he that was dead came forth from his Bed of Darknes with his Grave-Clothes on, whom when the Apostles had unlooked at the Command of Jesus, he went to *Bethany*. The Performance of this Miracle affected the Multitude very differently; some were convinc'd and believed on him; others wondring, yet maliciously went and inform'd the Pharisees, who upon that Advice called their great Council, whose solemn Cognizance was of the greater Causes of Prophets, Kings, and of the Holy Law: Where one breaking Silence says, "It is not a Time for us to sit still, and permit this Man to go on in the performance of these Miracles without Interruption; for if we suffer him, all Men

(o) Deferred. See *John* 11. 4, 5, 6, &c.

“ will believe on him, and the (p) *Romans* will destroy  
 “ both our Temple and Nation, our Religion and  
 “ Government, and wholly inflave us.” At this great  
 Assembly it was that *Caiaphas* the High-Priest (q) pro-  
 phesied that one should die for the People, and that  
 the whole Nation perish not. And from that time  
 they enter’d into a Combination, resolving to put him  
 to Death. But Jesus knowing they had passed a de-  
 cretory Sentence against him, did not perform any  
 publick Miracles among the People of *Judea*, but re-  
 tired to the City *Ephraim* in the Tribe of *Judah*, near  
 the Desert, where he staid a few Days till the Time  
 of the Passover.

When the Feast of the Passover was nigh at hand,  
 as Jesus with his Disciples was going to *Jerusalem*,  
 he told them the Event of his Journey would be, that  
 the *Jews* should deliver him to the *Gentiles*; that they  
 should scourge him, and mock him, and crucify him,  
 and the third Day he should rise again. Upon this  
 mention of his Resurrection, which they vainly pre-  
 sumed would be the Time of his taking all his Great-  
 ness upon him, the (r) Mother of *James* and *John*  
 came to Jesus, and prostrating her self at his Feet,  
 desired that her Sons might have the first Places in his  
 Kingdom: For all the Discourses of his Passion, and  
 Intimations of the Mysteriousness of his Kingdom,  
 could not yet put them into the right Understanding  
 of their Condition, they depending still upon the  
 Hopes of a temporal Happiness. But Jesus, who knew  
 the Weakness of their Apprehensions, gave them

(p) *Romans*. The *Jewish* Council  
 seeing the Miracles which Jesus did, this  
 especially of raising *Lazarus*, did very  
 much fear that professing himself to be  
 the *Messias*, he would soon attempt to  
 make himself King, and by the Reputa-  
 tion which he had gained among the  
 People, be quickly assisted in it, if he  
 were not timely hinder’d. If this were  
 done, the Consequence would be, that the  
*Romans*, to whom they were already  
 subject, looking upon this as a Rebel-  
 lion, would come with an Army, and

utterly destroy them.

(q) *Propheied*. See *John* 11. 50-52  
*Caiaphas* spake in Words that were  
 direct Prophecy of what God had  
 designed should come to pass: Not that  
 he meant it in that Sense, or thought  
 all of prophesying; but being in Place  
 of Authority among the *Jews* at that time,  
 he was a fit Person for God to make  
 use of as his Minister to foretel the purpose  
 of God, that Christ should die for the  
*Jews*.

(r) *Mother*. See *Mat.* 20. 20.

Answer

(i) Bar  
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Answer in proportion to their present Conceptions, and future Condition, telling them, "That if they desired the first Post of Honour in his Kingdom, and to be nearest to him, they must take the greatest Share of the sour Cup of his Sufferings, and then sit in his Kingdom, if his heavenly Father had prepared it for them: But for any Privilege of Honour or Dignity above others, they to whom his Father had designed it should have it." This bred ill Blood among the other ten Apostles, who were displeased with the Ambition of the two Brothers. But Jesus, the true Peace-maker, to prevent any Misunderstanding between them, dehorts them from all Thoughts of Supremacy, by telling them, "That though the Rulers or Kings of the Nations were served and benefited by their Subjects, and received secular Advantages by their Pre-eminencies, and that the Emperors in like manner were over them, yet Preference among them was to be attended with all Offices of servile Humility, and that they must not expect to live after the manner of the Heathen Princes: For he among them that affected to be supreme, must be the Servant of the rest, and that Christ's Kingdom here is not to be administer'd in that way which might bring in Splendor or Profit to him, but in a way of Charity, serving, relieving, providing, and dying for his People, instead of requiring any such Offices from them."

The blessed Jesus going from hence to *Jericho* with his usual Attendants of the Multitude, a fresh Object of Misery presents it self for him to exercise his divine Power on. Poor (*s*) *Bartimaus*, the Son of *Timaus*, who had long sat in the Road an humble Suppliant to all charitable Passengers for Relief, hearing the Noise of the vast Croud that passed by, asked the Meaning of that numerous Concourse; and being informed that Jesus of *Nazareth* was among them, with strong and impatient Faith he cried, *Jesus, thou Son of David, have Mercy upon me!* The Standers-by bid him forbear his

(*s*) *Bartimaus*. See Mark 10. 46, &c.

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L

clamorous

clamorous Noise, supposing he begg'd an Alms: But the Gift he desired was of greater Moment, and therefore he repeats his Importunity, and cries, *O Son of David, have Mercy upon me!* Upon this Jesus stopp'd, and ordering the blind Man to be brought to him, demands of him the Reason of his importunate Cries; who in humble manner replied, *Lord, restore my long-lost Sight!* He had no sooner ask'd than the compassionate Jesus answer'd his Request; for straightway his Eyes receive the welcome Light, and he with Joy makes one of the admiring Croud that followed their Saviour.

As the holy Jesus pass'd through (t) *Jericho*, a certain Man named *Zacheus*, of Wealth and Figure among the Publicans, being desirous of seeing Jesus, could not gratify his Curiosity in the Croud, because he was low of Stature, and therefore climbs up a Tree, from whence he might take a full View and Survey of his sacred Person. Jesus observing the eager Zeal of this honest Publican, calls to him to descend, and invited himself to his House. The overjoyed *Zacheus*, proud of this Honour, hastens to receive his heavenly Guest with the greatest Expressions of Love and Respect; and to prepare himself the better for the Reception of so excellent a Person, he purges his Conscience by Repentance of his Crimes: *Lord*, says he, *the half of my Estate I give to the Poor, and whomsoever I have defrauded, or as a Publican exacted more from them than was due, according to the Law I make a fourfold Restitution.* This Confession and Repentance was the greatest Entertainment any mortal Man could give our blessed Lord, who in return gives him this gracious Reward, *This Day are the Mercies of the Gospel dispensed to thee, Zacheus, as being a Believer; and though a Publican, thou art one to whom the Promises made to Abraham do belong.*

About this time, our Saviour being not (v) far from *Jerusalem*, upon occasion of his Disciples thinking that he would shortly take upon him the Regal Authority there, he spake this Parable to them: "A certain Man

(t) *Jericho.* See Luke 19. 1, &c.

(v) *Far.* See Luke 19. 11, 12, &c.

" born



“ born Heir to a Kingdom, took a great Journey to  
 “ (w) possess himself of it, and then to return again in  
 “ an eminent manner to his own Country where he  
 “ was born, and over which he was to reign. And  
 “ having many Servants, he intrusted each of them  
 “ with a (x) Stock of Money to traffick with in his  
 “ Absence, commanding them to improve it to the  
 “ best Advantage against his Return. The Reason of  
 “ his Journey to this far Country was, because those  
 “ his Country-men, over whom he was to reign, set  
 “ themselves contumaciously against him, and (y) dis-  
 “ claim’d him for their King. At his Return he first  
 “ examin’d his Servants with whom he had intrusted  
 “ his Talents ; he rewarded those who had improved  
 “ their Stock, and been faithful in their Trust, with  
 “ Gifts proportionable to their Capacities and Im-  
 “ provements ; but the negligent Servant, who had  
 “ slothfully spent his Time without any Advantage,  
 “ was condemn’d to perpetual Confinement and Dark-  
 “ ness, and his Talent given to him that had most ad-  
 “ vanced his Prince’s Interest in his Absence. From  
 “ whence sprang up that dogmatical Proposition in  
 “ Christianity, *To him that hath shall be given, and from*  
 “ *him that hath not shall be taken away even what he hath.*  
 “ His Servants having thus accounted with him, the  
 “ next thing he does is to take cognizance of those re-  
 “ bellious Countrymen (whose King he was by Right)  
 “ that, when he went to be inthron’d in another King-  
 “ dom, disclaim’d Obedience to him. These there-  
 “ fore he called to a severe Account, and command-  
 “ ing them to be put to the (z) Sword, they were exe-  
 “ cuted as so many Rebels.” After

(w) *Possess.* By this the Blessed Je-  
 sus intimated that he was to suffer, and  
 rise, and go to Heaven to be installed in  
 his Kingdom there.

(x) *Stock.* By this he intimated that  
 the Apostles were after his Departure to  
 preach to the *Jews*, to gain as many of  
 them as they could ; to go through all  
 their Cities before Christ should thus  
 come and shew himself in that regal il-

lustrious manner ; and so likewise were  
 all other inferior Christians, as well as  
 the Apostles to imploy their Diligence  
 and Industry, and according to their Ta-  
 lents to bring in some Increase to God.

(y) *Disclaim’d.* This intimates the  
*Jews* standing out against the Faith, as  
 it was after the Resurrection preached  
 to them by the Apostles.

(z) *Sword.* This was the Fate that  
 L 2 soon



After this, going from *Jericho*, he cured two blind Men upon the Way. And six Days before the Passover he went to *Bethany*, where he was magnificently entertained by *Simon* the Leper, being accompanied by *Martha*, *Mary*, and *Lazarus*, who sat at the Table with Jesus. (a) *Mary*, to add to the Grandeur of the Entertainment, having a Vial of very costly (b) Ointment, (c) poured it on Jesus, and wiped his Feet with her Hair. (d) The Richness of the Perfume soon diffused it self in every part of the House, which denoted its great Worth. But Malice, which never long wants an Opportunity of shewing it self, instructs the Thief and Traitor *Judas* how to lay hold on any occasion, who repines at the Vanity of this Expence (as he pretended) because it might have been sold for three hundred Pence, and given to the Poor. But Jesus, who knew the Malice of *Judas*, and the Wickedness he was afterwards to perpetrate, in a very mild Reply, tells them all, that this was an Act of Religion in *Mary*, who perform'd this as a fit Ceremony to solemnize his approaching Death, after which Men used to be embalm'd with Perfumes and Spices: This therefore as an Act of Religion was at this time more seasonable than an Act of Charity: For of the Poor, says he, you have many and daily Objects; but this is the last Opportunity she could have of expressing her Love to me, who am suddenly to be taken from you.

soon beset the *Jews* after our blessed Saviour's Inauguration in his Kingdom in Heaven.

(a) *Mary*. This was *Mary* the Sister of *Lazarus*, not *Mary Magdalen*.

(b) *Ointment*. This is by the best Interpreters called *Nardispick*, or genuine *Nard*, free from all Mixture or Adulteration; which was a very great Rarity, by reason of the nine Sorts of Herbs, which (according to *Pliny*) imitate the true *Nard*.

(c) *Poured*. The Word in *St. Mark*, *Ch. 14. v. 3.* which in our Translation is render'd *brake the Box*, is very improperly applied, and very wide of the Meaning of the original *Syntripfasa*;

as is also the Word *Alabastron* which I render'd a *Box*: For it is very improbable that *Mary* should break a Box of Vessel of Alabastron or Marble, which I know to be hard; nor is it likely in the Nature of a Box, but rather of a Vial, which *Mary* shaking (for that is the proper Signification of the Word *Syntripfasa*) poured it out, and anointed Jesus's Feet with it. This is to be the most proper way of rendering these Words, both according to the present occasion, and the genuine Sense of them.

(d) See *Mat. 26. 6.* *Mark 14. John 12. 4.*

ST LUKE CHAP. VII.  
A woman anointeth CHRIST'S feet.

30



ST LUKE 7. Verse 37. 38.<sup>148</sup>

*She washed his feet with tears, & did  
wipe them with the hairs of her head, &  
kissed his feet' etc.*

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It being presently known that *Lazarus*, whom Jesus had lately raised from the Dead, was one of the Company that was treated by *Simon* the Leper, the *Jews* flock'd in great Numbers to see him on whom the Miracle was wrought, as well as the mighty Operator of it. This hinted uneasy Thoughts to the jealous *Sanhedrin*, who having heard that *Lazarus's* Resurrection was the Occasion of many *Jews* believing on Jesus, they consult about (e) destroying him too, as they had before determined of Jesus.

The next Day, being the fifth Day before the Passover, Jesus came to the foot of the Mount of *Olives*, and sent his Disciples to *Bethphage*, a little Village in the Neighbourhood, commanding them to unloose an (f) Ass and a Colt, and to bring them to him, and to tell the Owners it was done for their Master's Service; and they did so. And when they brought the Ass to Jesus, he (g) rides on him to *Jerusalem*; and the People having notice all the way he pass'd of his Approach, took Palm-Branches in their hands, and went out to meet him, strewing Boughs of Trees and their Garments in the Way, crying out *Hosanna to the Son of David*: Which was a Form of Exclamation used to the Honour of God in great Assemblies and Solemnities, and signifies Adoration to the Son of *David*, by the Rite of carrying Branches. But this Honour was so great, and unusual to be done even to Kings, that the Pharisees, knowing this to be an appropriate manner of Address to God, said one to another, Hear ye what these Men say? For they were troubled to hear the

(e) *Destroying.* The *Jews* had through Jealousy of *Lazarus's* causing many to confess Christ, resolved to put him to Death; but God in his Providence was pleased to preserve him as a Monument of his Glory, and a Testimony of the Miracle which Jesus perform'd on him, thirty Years after the Death of Jesus. *Epiph. contra Manich.*

(f) *Ass.* See *Mat.* 21. 2. *Mark* 11. 2. *Luke* 19. 30, 31.

(g) *Rides.* Jesus rode not for any Weakness, having formerly gone through all

*Palestine* on Foot; but thereby using that Privilege which belong'd to Judges (*Speak you that ride on white Asses*) to signify his Approbation of those due Acclamations which he knew would that Day be given him, *v.* 8. as to the Messiah; that so the Prophecy, *Isa.* 62. 11. and *Zech.* 9. 9. might be accomplished, wherein it's said, That the King of the *Jews*, the Messiah, should come riding on an Ass's Foal, which though it were a meek, was yet also a royal Gesture and Ceremony.

People pay such Reverence, being jealous of his growing great among them.

When the holy Jesus had thus entred *Jerusalem* in Triumph, he went up to the Mount of Olives, and from thence beholding *Jerusalem*, in consideration of the many Infelicities and Calamities which were to befall it, he wept over it, saying, "O that thou also wouldst yet consider and lay to heart, before it be too late, even in this critical Juncture, what concerns thy future Tranquillity and Prosperity ! But now thou shuttest thine Eyes against them, and wilt not consider. But thy Punishment for this shall be, that within a while thine Enemies shall (b) besiege thee close, and famish thee : They shall take thy City, destroy all that are in it, and utterly demolish the Temple ; and all this shall befall thee for not considering what I have, by way of Message, delivered from God to thee." All which literally fell out, and was verified in the most minute Circumstances and Particulars.

Jesus descending from the Mount of Olives to the City (which was still but part of his Cavalcade) he went into the Temple, purging it of all Uncleannesses and Profanation, not suffering so much as the least Vessel to be carried through or into it which did not belong to it. Thither also the Acclamations of the People follow'd him, which was no small Mortification to the Pharisees, who, with the Noises abroad and the restless Tumults of Envy and Hatred within their own Breasts, were ready to burst : And that which added to their Vexation was, that notwithstanding all their Endeavours to suppress his Glories, in despite of all their Stratagems, the whole Nation was become, as it were, one Disciple to the glorious Nazarene. To confirm them in which Opinion, he continues to cure the blind and lame, and others, of Infirmities under which they labour'd.

(b) *Besiege thee.* In the Mount of Olives, where Jesus shed Tears over perishing *Jerusalem*, the Romans first pitch'd their Tents, when they came to its final Overthrow.

(i) Gre  
hem 21.  
Greeks w  
believe of t



But notwithstanding the Pharisees and other Grantees among the *Jews* were so malevolent to the Holy Jesus, who had done so much good among them; yet there were others of as much Consideration and better Disposition, who were otherwise inclined: For whilst Jesus abode at *Jerusalem*, certain (i) *Greeks*, who came to the Feast to worship, made their Address to *Philip*, that they might be brought to Jesus. *Philip* acquainted *Andrew* with it, and they both told Jesus; who, having admitted them, discoursed before them of many Things relating to his Passion; tells them, that his (k) Death would be a Means of bringing more to the Faith than his Life would be, as it fares with Corn sown in the Earth, which by that means dies, but arises with Abundance and Increase. After this, his humane Nature beginning to dread the approaching Hour, he confess'd the Frailty of it, and would by Prayer have endeavour'd to avert the bitter Cup; but recollecting, it was to suffer that he came into the World, he therefore would not pray against it, but rather desired God to finish the grand Purpose of glorifying his Name. To which he was answer'd by a Voice from Heaven; *I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.* But neither this, nor the whole Series of Miracles that he did, the Mercies, the Cures, nor the divine Discourses, could gain the Faith of all the *Jews*; for many of the Rulers of them, who believed on him, durst not confess him, because they lov'd the Praise of Men more than the Praise of God. Then Jesus again exhorted them all to believe in him, that so they might in the same Act believe in God; that they might approach unto the Light, and not abide in Darkness; that they might obey the Commandments of the Father, whose express Charge it was, that Jesus should preach this Gospel; and that they might not be judg'd at the last Day by the

(i) *Greeks.* See *John* 12. 20. *Matt.* 21. 15. *Luke* 19. 39. These *Greeks* were Gentile Worshipers, Proselytes of the Gates; who being not permitted to celebrate the Feast with the *Jews*, were yet come up to pray in the outward Courts of the Temple.

(k) *Death.* See *John* 12. 24, &c.

Word that they had rejected, which Word to all that observe is everlasting Life.

After this Sermon Jesus retiring to *Bethany*, he abode there all Night; and on the morrow returning to *Jerusalem*, on the Way being hungry, he pass'd by a Fig-tree, where expecting Fruit he found none, and he cursed the Fig-tree, which by the next Day was dry'd up and wither'd: Upon Occasion of which preternatural Event, Jesus discoursed of the Power of Faith, and its Ability to produce Miracles; but this must not be by placing any Confidence in themselves, but in all Humility of Prayer to God; assuring them, that whatsoever they shall thus pray for, they shall most certainly obtain. Jesus having return'd to the City, came into the Temple, and preach'd the Gospel; whereupon the Scribes and Elders, knowing he had no Authority from the *Sanhedrin*, question'd his Commission, asking him, who gave him Authority to do these Things? This Question Jesus thought fit to answer by asking another, which he knew would silence them: And therefore he would know their Opinion of *John*, whether he derived his Commission from God or from Man? The *Jews* soon found they were insnared in their own Net, being unable to make any Reply: For they consider'd, that if they should say, *John* received his Power of Men, they would be in danger of being stoned by the Multitude, who esteem'd *John* as a Prophet: And if they should say from (1) Heaven, they well knew he might justly reproach them for not believing him. Unable then to extricate themselves out of this difficult Dilemma, they conclude Ignorance to be the best Answer, and declare they could not tell whence he deriv'd his Power. To which the Holy Jesus replies; "Neither is it necessary for me to give you any Account of my Commission or Authority, since you grant, that Man may lawfully preach and baptize, and entertain Disciples, as *John* did, without the Appro-

(1) Heaven, See *Mat.* 21. 25. *Luke* 20. 6, &c.

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**ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXI.**  
 The Lords servants slain by the Husbandmen.



**ST MATTHEW 21 Verse 35<sup>153</sup>**  
*And the husbandmen took his servants,  
 and beat one, and killed another, and stoned  
 another, Again he sent other servants, etc*

“ bation or Permission of the *Sanhedrin*. Is it not a  
“ strange thing, that you, who pretend so much to  
“ be God’s knowing and obedient Servants, should  
“ yet stand out the most obstinately of all others a-  
“ gainst his Commands, and Messengers sent from him,  
“ when the meanest Publicans and the Multitude for-  
“ sake their former Ways, repent, and believe the  
“ Gospel ?” Then he proceeded to reprove the Pha-  
risees and Rulers by the Parable of two Sons ; the  
first of whom said to his Father, who commanded him  
to work in the Vineyard, he would not ; but being  
soon sensible of his Disobedience, repented and obey-  
ed his Commands. The second gave his Father good  
Words, promising Obedience, but not performing.  
Jesus asking the *Jews*, which of these they thought  
the most dutiful Son ? They answer, the first. Then  
he immediately applying the Parable to themselves,  
tells them, That the Publicans and Harlots, the worst  
of Sinners in their Opinion, by receiving the Gospel,  
which they rejected, should enter Heaven before them :  
Meaning by this Parable, that Persons of the great-  
est Improbability were more heartily converted than  
they, whose Outside seem’d to have appropriated Re-  
ligion to their Labels and Frontlets, to mere Forms  
and Ceremonies.

To this he added the Parable of the Vineyard,  
“ which the Owner let out to Husbandmen, who  
“ killed the Servants sent to demand the Fruits, and  
“ at last the Son also, that they might seize the Inhe-  
“ ritage. And asking the Pharisees what they  
“ thought the Owner would do to those Husband-  
“ men : They expressed great Indignation against  
“ those false and bloody Servants, affirming them  
“ worthy of utter Destruction ; that the Lord of the  
“ Vineyard might provide him better Officers, who  
“ should pay him his Rent duly.” Though when Je-  
sus, upon this Answer of theirs, approv’d the Reasona-  
bleness of it, and affirm’d it should thus befall (m) them

(m) *Them.* See *Luke* 20. 19. *Matthew* 21. 45.



indeed, (by which they began to perceive that he spake this Parable against them) they with Indignation deprecate the Sentence, saying, (n) *God forbid*. Then pronouncing a sad Commination to all such as should stumble at him, the rejected though Chief or Corner-stone, or on whom this Stone should fall; he positively declares to the *Jews*, that the Gospel, and the Privilege of being the only Church and People of God, should be taken from them, and given to such as should practise what the Gospel requires. After these, and some other Reprehensions, which he so veil'd in Parable, that it might not be expounded to be Calumny, (although such sharp Sermons had been spoken in the People's hearing; but yet so transparently, that themselves might see their own Iniquity in those modest and just Representments) the Pharisees would fain have seiz'd him, but they durst not for the People: Therefore they resolved, if they could, to (o) intangle him in his Talk, and accordingly sent out Spies, who should pretend Sanctity and Veneration for his Person; who, with a goodly insinuating Preface, that Jesus was impartial in his Thoughts and Words, regarded no Man's Person, but spake the Word of God with much Simplicity and Justice, would seem to colour their mischievous Designs against him. The Spies they sent were of two contrary Parties, some Pharisees, others (p) *Herodians*; that whatsoever Answer he should make to any of their Questions, one Party might be offended with him. They come to him therefore with this flattering, but insidious Prologue; "We know, " that without all Fear of Men or Partiality, thou " wilt tell us truly what is our Duty toward (q) God. " Tell us therefore, is it just, according to the Law " of God, to give Tribute to *Cæsar*, or no?" Jesus knowing their treacherous Design, said; "Ye Hypo-

(n) *God*. See Luke 20. 16.

(o) *Intangle*. See Mat. 22. 15, &c.

(p) *Herodians*. The *Herodians* were not a distinct Sect from the Pharisees

and Sadduces; but some of them Sadduces, as appears by comparing Mat. 16. 16. with Mark 8. 15.

(q) *God*. See Mat. 22. 16, &c.

" *critics*

"crites, why indeavour ye, under the pretence of  
"reverencing me, to insnare me? Shew me the (r)  
"Tribute-Money." And they brought him a Penny.  
Then he demanded of them, whose Image was (s)  
inscribed upon it? They confess'd it to be the Signa-  
ture of the *Roman* Emperor: Whence Christ conclu-  
ded, that they who acknowledg'd *Cæsar's* Supremacy  
over them, ought to pay the Tribute due to him as  
supreme; for the Law of God requiring that every  
one should have that which belongs to him, he par-  
ticulariz'd in the Duties of paying Acknowledgment  
to Kings in their just Dues, as Acts of Piety are due  
to God. This was a mighty Disappointment to them,  
who thought, that, upon answering this Question, he  
must in all probability fall under the Displeasure of  
*Cæsar*, or the People; but they, finding that he by his  
incomparable Wisdom broke their Snare, (t) admi-  
ring his Prudence, departed from him, without hopes  
of gaining any Advantage from his naked and true  
Simplicity. But though they were disappointed in  
their nicely-laid Stratagem, yet from thence this ge-  
neral Good accrued to Mankind, that our Blessed Sa-  
viour, by means of their intended Treachery, esta-  
blish'd an Evangelical Proposition for ever, saying,  
*Give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God*  
*the things that are God's.*

(r) *Tribute.* The Question about the  
Tribute was the Cause of a great Dis-  
pute, because of the numerous Sect of  
the *Galileans*, who denied it, and be-  
cause of the Affections of the People,  
who lov'd their Money, and their Li-  
berty, and the Privileges of their Na-  
tion. The Head of this Sect of the *Ga-  
lileans*, was one *Judas Gaulonita*, or  
*Galilaus*, according to *Josephus, Hist.*  
*18. c. 2.* who being join'd by one *Sad-  
duk*, a Priest, solicited the People to a  
secession, telling them that God was  
to be their only Master and Prince, and  
no Mortal to be acknowledg'd as such;  
and the requiring a Tax from them, if  
they should pay it, was a manifest Pro-

fession of Servitude, and that it was their  
Duty to vindicate their Liberty: By  
which means he rais'd a great Sedition  
among the *Jews*, and was the Cause,  
under pretence of defending the publick  
Liberty, of innumerable Mischiefs to  
the Nation.

(s) *Inscribed.* This plainly denoted  
their Right of Submission, and conse-  
quently of paying Tribute to the *Ro-  
mans*: For the coining of Money is  
part of the supreme Power or regal  
Prerogative; and they being a con-  
quer'd People, and their Coin bearing  
*Cæsar's* Inscription, the Tribute must  
be supposed due to him.

(t) See *Mat. 22. 22.*

The Blessed Jesus having so excellently, and so much to their Admiration answer'd the Pharisees, the Sadduces bring their great Objection to him against the (v) Resurrection, by putting the Case of a Woman married to seven Husbands, and whose Wife should she be in the Resurrection? Thinking that to be an impossible State, which engages upon such seeming Incongruities, that a Woman should at once be Wife to seven Men. But Jesus first answer'd their Objection, telling them, that all those Relations, whose Foundation is in the Imperfections and Passions of Flesh and Blood, and Duties here below, shall cease in that State; which is so spiritual, that it is like to the Condition of Angels, amongst whom there is no Difference of Sex, no Genealogies or Derivations from one to another: And then by a new Argument proves the Resurrection by one of God's Appellatives, who did then delight to be called the God of *Abraham*, the God of *Isaac*, and the God of *Jacob*. For since God is not the God of the Dead, but of the Living, unto him even these Men are alive: And if so, then either they now exercise Acts of Life, and therefore shall be restored to their Bodies, that their Actions may be compleat, and they not remain in a State of Imperfection to all Eternity; or, if they be alive, and yet cease from Operation, they shall be much rather raised up to a Condition which shall actuate and make perfect their present Capacities and Dispositions, lest a Power and Inclination should for ever be in the Root, and never grow up to Fruit or Herbage, and so be an eternal Vanity.

Though the Pharisees and Sadduces were no great Friends to one another; yet in the Cause against the Saviour of the World they join'd Forces: But notwithstanding this Union in part, they were glad upon any Occasion to see one another foil'd. Of which, an Instance was plain in the Sadduces Question about the Resurrection; for the Pharisees were well pleased, not

(v) See Mark 12. 19, &c.

that Jesus spake so excellently, but that the Sadduces were confuted; and therefore hoping for better Success, they attack him with another Question, more out of Curiosity than any pious Desire of Satisfaction. But at last, after all their piqueering, Jesus was pleased to ask them a Question concerning *CHRIST*, whose Son he was? They answer'd, the Son of *David*. But he replying, *How then doth David call him Lord? saying, the Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right Hand, &c.* To which they could not answer.

After this, Jesus gave his Disciples caution against the Pride, Hypocrisy and Oppression of the Scribes and Pharisees; and commended the poor Widow's Oblation of her two Mites into the Treasury, preferring her pious Intentions, who threw in her All, before the great and mighty Superfluities of the Rich, who had vastly still to spare. All this was spoken in the Temple; the goodly Stones and Ornaments of which when the Apostles beheld with Wonder, they being beautiful and firm, Jesus at the same time prophesies the (w) Destruction of the Place. Concerning which Prediction, when the Apostles, being with him at the Mount of Olives, ask'd him privately of the Time and Signs of so sad Events, he tells them one Prognostick of the Destruction that shall be; that many Deceivers shall arise, pretending to be the Messias. Another Forerunner of it is, that great Com-motions and Tumults shall be in *Judea*, before the *Romans* come to destroy them utterly. Then he discoursed largely of his coming to Judgment against the City of *Jerusalem*, and from thence interweav'd Predictions of the Universal Judgment of the World, of which this, though very sad, was but a small Adum-bration: Adding Precepts of Watchfulness, and standing in Preparation, with Hearts filled with Grace: All which he inforces with the pathetick Parable of the "Ten Virgins, who at that Point of Time, spoken of, the heavy Visitation of this People, took

(w) See *Mat.* 24. 3. *Mark* 13. 3. *Luke* 21. 7.

" their



" their Lamps and went forth to meet the Bride-  
 " groom. Five of them were prudent and watchful  
 " the other vain and improvident. The wise five had  
 " provided themselves with a Stock of Oil sufficient  
 " furnish their Lamps during their Expectation of the  
 " Bridegroom's Coming; but the five foolish took  
 " more with them than for their present Occasion.  
 " After long waiting, heavy Sleep seal'd their wear-  
 " Eyes; but at Midnight they were alarm'd with the  
 " Cry of the Bridegroom's Coming. The five wise  
 " who had trimm'd their Lamps before they went to  
 " rest, were not surpriz'd with the sudden Summon-  
 " but joyfully prepar'd to meet the Bridegroom  
 " whilst the five foolish careless Virgins, rousing  
 " the Noise, found their Lamps extinct. In vain they  
 " implore a Supply of the others; they are forced  
 " seek for more Oil elsewhere; in which Time the  
 " Bridegroom arrives, who receives the five wise, and  
 " takes them with him to the Place of the Nuptial  
 " Entertainment, and orders the Door to be shut.  
 " The five foolish Damsels having long loiter'd about  
 " for Oil to recruit their decay'd Lamps, come to the  
 " Bridegroom's Gate, demanding Entrance with  
 " much Assurance as those that had paid the money for  
 " strict Attendance. Their importunate Cries reach  
 " the Bridegroom's Ear, who tells them there is  
 " no Room for such Loiterers, whose Sloth and  
 " providence had betray'd them to the Loss of the  
 " Entertainment with him." By this Parable, Blessed  
 " Jesus hinted to his Disciples the Necessity of  
 " Watchfulness, that not knowing the Day or Hour  
 " the Son of Man's Coming, they might be always ready  
 " to receive him. This Parable of Diligence and  
 " Watchfulness he inforced with another, of the Talents  
 " intrusted with the faithful and slothful Servants, the  
 " by pressing the Observance of those Duties more neces-  
 " sarily to them. And then for the Encouragement  
 " the diligent, and Terror of the slothful, he proceed-  
 " ed to tell them, that when Christ should come to  
 " Judgment.



Judgment, whether to execute Punishment on this People, or to doom every Man for his future eternal Being, then should his Appearance be glorious and full of Majesty. (x) All the People of the *Jews*, Believers and Unbelievers, and all that ever liv'd in this World, every one with whom God had intrusted any Talent, should by the Angels be gather'd before him: And all the obedient Followers and Disciples of his should place in a State of the greatest Dignity; but the unfaithful and disobedient should be liable to Judgment. Then should he, as King and Judge, distribute the Joys and Comforts of the Kingdom of Heaven, which before all Eternity were designed to be the Reward of all the faithful Servants of God, according to every Man's Works of Piety and Charity performed in this Life, (y) express'd in St. Matthew by feeding and entertaining Christ, by clothing his naked Body, tending him when he was sick, relieving, assisting, providing for and visiting him in Constraint. Then should those humble faithful Disciples of his, as not conscious of any such Acts of Service or Charity shewed to Christ, decline the Praise of such Merit. To which the Blessed Jesus would reply, inasmuch as they had performed those good Offices to the meanest Wretch alive, that was Partaker of that humane Nature, which he honour'd by assuming it, they had done it to him. But for the slothful and unfaithful, he should pronounce them accursed, and adjudge them to those eternal Woes design'd for the Devil, and those Angels that sinn'd and fell with him, for their Impiety and Uncharitableness, in refusing to assist him, when he was famish'd with Hunger, starv'd with Cold, sick and in Prison. And then, not conscious of this Cruelty and Impiety, they should begin to expostulate that they never acted thus friendly by Christ, never saw him in any Distress without relieving him. But he should answer them; inasmuch as ye did not succour and comfort the mean-

(x) See Mat. 25. 32.

(y) Expressed. See Mat. 25. 35, 36, &amp;c.

est of my Disciples, ye refused those good Offices to my Person. And then he concludes his Sermon with a Narrative of his Passion, foretelling, that within (z) two Days he should be betray'd and deliver'd by the *Jews* to the *Romans*, to die after their Manner, which was to be fasten'd on a Cross.

The *Jews* having long and impatiently waited for an Opportunity of taking off Jesus in a formal Way of Law, had hitherto been frustrated in all their Attempts, though laid with all the insidious Treachery that Malice could invent; for they durst not attack him by open Force, because of the great Opinion the Multitude had of him, and who might revenge any Harm done to him upon the Administration: However, they resolve to leave no Means untry'd to get him into their Power, and in order hereunto they call a great Council to consult how to insnare him: But whilst the Scribes and Pharisees were racking their Brains to find out a Way to betray him, a wicked officious Man, at the Instigation of the Devil, furnishes them with an Instrument: *Judas Iscariot*, one of the Twelve, hearing of this Meeting of the *Jews*, and knowing that they of the *Sanhedrin* were desirous of apprehending Jesus privately, goes from *Bethany* in haste, and offers himself to betray his Master to them, if they would give him a considerable Reward. The Council overjoyed at this Opportunity, as readily offer as his Avarice was to crave, and they agreed with him for thirty Pieces of Silver. A poor Price for the Saviour of the World to be valued at by his undiscerning unworthy Countrymen. The Bargain thus made *Judas* retires from the Council, watching such an (a) Opportunity as they meant, that is, an Opportunity of taking him privately, when the People should not be aware.

The (b) next Day was the first Day of unleavened Bread, on which it was necessary they should

(z) Two Days. See Mat. 26. 2.

(b) Next Day. The Thursday

(a) Opportunity. See Mat. 26. 4, 16. evening, wherein the thirteenth Day

(c) R  
(d) P  
[V]

(c) kill the Passover; therefore Jesus sent *Peter* and *John* to the City to a certain Man, whom they should find carrying a (d) Pitcher of Water to his (e) House, him they were to follow, and there to prepare the Passover. These two Disciples went, and accordingly found the Man in the same Circumstances, and prepared for Jesus and his Family, who at the Evening came to celebrate the Passover.

## BOOK VI.

*The fourth Year, beginning at the fourth Passover after the Baptism of Christ.*

ALL Things being provided, and the Time appointed drawing near, the Holy Jesus, who was now about to finish the great Work of Salvation, came with the rest of the Apostles to *Jerusalem*, thereto eat the Passover with them before his Passion. Having eat the Paschal Lamb with his Disciples, and knowing that his (f) Hour was come that he should depart out of this World to the Father, and therefore what he had to say or do to his Disciples must be done presently, he thus express'd the Constancy of his Affection to them. Rising from Supper after the manner of a Waiter, he puts off his upper Garment, girds his under Garment with a Towel, and pouring Water into a Basin, puts himself in the humble Posture of the meanest Servant to wash his Disciples Feet, and after wipes them with

the Month *Nisan* was concluded, and the fourteenth Day began, the Day of Preparation to the Feast of unleavened bread, whereon they put all Leaven out of their Houses, that is, on the Evening which began the Paschal-Day.

(c) Kill. See *Luke* 22. 7.

(d) Pitcher. See *Mark* 14. 73, &c.

[Vol. 3.]

(e) House. This is supposed to be the House of *John* surnamed *Mark*, which had always been open to this blessed Family, where Jesus was pleased to finish his last Supper, and the Mysteriousness of the Vespers of his Passion.

(f) Hour. See *John* 13. 1, &c.

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the Towel ; not only by this Ceremony, but in his Discourses instructing them in the Doctrine of Meekness and Humility, which he the Master by his great Condescension had made sacred, and imprinted the Lesson in lasting Characters by his own Example. *Simon Peter* thinking he ought in good Manners to decline this great Condescension, far below the Dignity of his Master, was unwilling to be wash'd by him, till Jesus told him, he must renounce his Part in him, unless he washed him. On which he cried out, *Lord, not only my Hands, (g) but my Feet and my Head.* Jesus tells him, he that is *(h)* wash'd before, needs no further washing, save only for the Feet, which by daily conversing and walking on Earth, will be apt to gather Dirt, and need continual cleansing. So is it, says he, among my Disciples, the *(i)* Body of whom is clean, but the Feet are foul, that is, one base, unworthy Person among them, meaning *Judas*, the Person that had now undertaken to deliver him.

After the eating of the Paschal Lamb, the blessed Jesus knowing his Time was short, and that he had much to do in it, hastens to the *(k)* second Supper, at which

*(g) But my Feet.* Jesus here tells *Peter*, that the Ablution or washing of the Feet was sufficient for the Purification of the whole Man ; relating to the Custom of those Countries, who used to go to Supper immediately from the Baths ; who therefore were sufficiently clean save only their Feet, by reason of the Dust contracted from the Baths to the eating Rooms ; from which, when by the hospitable Master of the House they were caused to be cleansed, they needed no more washing.

*(h) Wash'd.* The Hebrews had two sorts of washings, one of the whole Body, and which was called Immersion, the other of the Hands or Feet, called Dipping or Pouring of Water. The former was used by the Priest (after the building of the Temple) before the entering into the Temple, and also by the Proselytes at their Initiation : The latter was of every Day's Use : And to these our Saviour seems to refer, intimating by being wholly wash'd, him that hath undertaken his Discipleship,

and so renounced the Profaneness of his former Life ; and he that had done so is said to be wholly wash'd, and need never to be wash'd again ; in Imitation of the Ceremony of Initiation, which was never repeated among the *Jews*. All that is needful to him, is the pouring of Water, and so rinsing of the Hands or Feet, the daily Ministry of the Word and Grace of Christ (thereby signified) to cleanse and wash off the daily Frailties and Imperfections of our weak Nature after Conversion.

*(i) Body.* See *John 13. 10.*

*(k) Second Supper.* It was the Custom of the *Jewish* Nation, after the eating of the Paschal Lamb, to sit down to a second Supper, in which they eat Herbs and unleavened Bread, the *Major-Domo* first dipping his Morsel, and then the Family ; after which the Father of the Family brake Bread into pieces, and distributed a Part to every Guest, and first drinking himself, gave to the rest the Chalice fill'd with Wine, according to the Age and Dignity of the Person, ad-



he intended to institute the perpetual Memorial of himself sacrificed for the Sins of the World. Jesus therefore being to celebrate this Supper, changed the Forms of Benediction, turned the Ceremony into a Mystery, and gave his Body and Blood in a sacramental religious Configuration; instituting at the Close of this second Supper, the venerable and blessed Sacrament; which from the time of its (*l*) Institution, is called the Lord's Supper; which Rite Jesus commanded the Apostles to perpetuate, in Commemoration of him their Lord until his second Coming. And this was the first Delegation of a perpetual Ministry, which Jesus made to his Apostles, in which they were to be succeeded in all the Generations of the Church.

Our blessed Lord having instituted the Method of that Memorial which his Apostles and their Posterity were to continue, tells them, that he was not long to abide with them, that this was the last Passover he should celebrate with them, till they feasted with him in the Kingdom of Heaven; and at last labouring under great Perturbation of Mind, he told his Apostles, that one of them should (*m*) betray him. This was a very surprising Arrest upon the Reputation of each Disciple, except the guilty one; every one but he looking upon themselves as innocent, yet liable to the Imputation of Guilt under so general an Accusation. The Apostles with great Perplexity of Mind, survey one another, but cannot guess at the guilty Person; *Judas* the Traitor being the furthest from their Suspicion, because he was the Lord's Steward, and intrusted by him with the dispensing of that little temporal Cash the holy Family were possessed of. Whilst they were under this Anxiety of Mind, *Simon Peter* bethought himself of a Method to

make this Prediction a Form of Benediction proper to the Mystery, which was Eucharistical, and Commemorative of their Deliverance from Egypt. See John 13. 2.

(*l*) Institution. See Mat. 26. 26. Mark 14. 22. Luke 22. 19.

(*m*) Betray. See John 13. 2. Jesus

made this Prediction, that they might not be scandalized at the Sadness of his Passion, but be confirm'd in their Belief, seeing a great Demonstration of his Wisdom and Spirit of Prophecy, in this very Instance of foretelling the Treachery of *Judas Iscariot*.



come at the Truth of this matter ; and that was by hinting to *John* the Favourite Apostle, that always sat next to Jesus, that he would prevail with Jesus to discover the guilty Person, that the rest might not labour under the Suspicion and Scandal of such infamous Treachery. *John* being so near Jesus, could ask him undiscern'd of the rest, whom he meant. He told him, it was he to whom he should give the next Piece of Bread, which he took out of the Dish ; and having given him that Mark to be known by, he presently put his Hand into the Dish, and took a Piece of Bread, and gave it to *Judas*. And notwithstanding Jesus had (n) warned him before of the Horribleness and Danger of the Sin, telling him, it had been better for that Man that he were sunk to the bottom of the Sea, than be guilty of such treacherous Ingratitude ; yet by his not relenting, the Devil entred more forcibly into him than (o) before, hurrying him to a speedy Execution of his wicked Design ; which Jesus knowing, said to him accordingly, " What thou dost, do (p) quickly." None of the rest that were at supper understood the Meaning of this, unless perhaps *John* to whom he had given the (q) Token ; they thinking, because he was Almshouse-keeper, that Jesus had order'd him to distribute something to the Poor. However, he had no sooner receiv'd the Sop, but the Devil immediately took possession of him ; and taking the Advantage of the (r) Night, the better to conceal his villainous Design, he withdraws from his Master and joins his Enemies ; who having bargain'd with him for a certain Price to betray him, impatiently expected a Performance of his Promise ; which they were not long disappointed of ; for Jesus never after saw him as a (s) Disciple, but as a Schismatick and Traitor, when he came with an armed Force to seize him in the Garden ; which was soon after.

(n) Warn'd. See Mark 14. 21. *John*

13. 27.

(o) Before. See *John* 13. 2. *Luke*

22. 3.

(p) Quickly. *John* 13. 27, 28, &c.

(q) Token. Ibid. v. 26.

(r) Night. Ibid. v. 30.

(s) Disciple. *Luke* 22. 47. *Judas* is called, He that was called Judas, one of the Twelve.

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ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXVI. <sup>32</sup> Jesus said.  
Verily I say unto you that one of you shall betray me



ST MATTHEW 26. Verse 23. <sup>164.</sup>  
JESUS answered and said, He that dippeth  
his hand with me in the dish, the same  
shall betray me.

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Whilst these Things passed, the old Argument of (t) Supremacy is again revived; which Jesus suppresses, as he had done before, to prevent any Misunderstandings and ill Blood among them, which are too apt to be the Consequences of emulous Affectation; promising them a Kingdom, upon the same Terms that his Father had promised him one; adding, that they should be next to him, and at his Departure have the Government of the Church.

Then Jesus began his Farewel-Sermon, which was very curiously mixed with Sadness and Joys, and interwoven with Mysteries, as with rich Jewels: The Discourses of the Glorification of God in his Son, and of those Glories which the Father had prepared for him: Mentions his sudden Departure, and his going to a Place whither they could not follow him yet, but afterwards should; meaning first to Death, and then to Glory; commanding them to love one another. Much about, or at this time Christ addressed himself particularly to Peter, saying, "I tell thee, *Simon*, that upon the Occasion of some Sin committed by thee, Satan has accused thee before God, and required that he may have the shaking of thee, to drive thee from the Faith of Christ: This is granted him, and the Danger consequent to it is great; but I have prayed for thee that thou mayst not be conquered by him and his Terrors, so as utterly to forsake the Faith; and for the Sins thou shalt be guilty of in this Combat, let this Use be made of them: When by Repentance thou art recovered out of them, be more careful to strengthen and confirm others, that they fall not in the like manner." Peter, who thought himself indued with Strength of Faith sufficient to oppose any Temptation or Misfortune, confidently protests his Readiness to suffer the worst, even Death it self, with his

(t) Supremacy. Some time before (viz. before his Departure from Jericho, Mat. 20. 25, 29. nay, before he came hither, Mark 10. 42, 46.) there was a Contention among the Disci-

ples (occasion'd by the Request of Zebedee's Wife for her two Sons, Mat. 20. 20.) which of them should be look'd upon as the worthiest, and so be preferr'd before the rest.

Master. But the blessed Jesus, who knew his Weakness, foretels his denying him before the second (v) Crowing of the Cock that Night. Then foretelling the imminent Dangers that threatned, he admonishes them to provide spiritual Armor against them. "Formerly, says he, I sent you without any Provision, and ye wanted nothing; but now Distresses are like to come upon you, and you will first see them fall most sharply on me."

But lest he should afflict them with too sad a Representation of his present Condition, he relieves their drooping Spirits with the Comforts of Faith: Tells them their (w) Belief in him would afford them many Privileges against the Troubles of this World: Cheers them with the Intent of his Departure, which was in order to be their Harbinger, which Office he would in all Parts execute, by coming back and meeting them to introduce them to Mansions of eternal Bliss in his Father's House. And to confirm their Faith the more he tells them; "You know the Place to which I go, and the Way which will bring you thither; I am the true and living Way, sent by my Father to direct all Men, and to reveal his Will to you, who have known him, as he is revealed to me. Though ye have never seen my Father, yet having seen and known me, who am his Image, ye have both seen and known him." Here *Philip* not considering in what Sense his Master spake, saith to him, "Lord, shew us the Father, and that will convince us beyond any other Argument." Jesus answers, "I tell thee again, *Philip*, I am the Image of my Father, and he that hath seen me, and heard my Doctrine, hath seen my Father; why then this unnecessary Question? Do you not believe that whatsoever I do or teach, I do by my Father's Appointment? Take my Word for it; or, if you will not do so, let me shew you Miracles which have been wrought before you."

(v) Crowing. See *Mat.* 26. 34. *Luke* 22. 34.

(w) Belief. See *John* 14. 1, 2, &c.



"Eyes convince you; and be assured, that you, who have been my Disciples, shall be able to do the same (x) Miracles that I do, nay greater upon my sending down the Holy Ghost upon you." Then adding a Promise in order to their present Support and future Felicity, he tells them, that if they should ask of God any thing in his Name, they should receive it; and upon condition they would love him, and keep his Commandments, he would pray his Father to send the Holy Ghost upon them, to supply his Room, to furnish them with proportionable Comforts, to inable them with great Gifts, to lead them into all Truth, and to abide with them for ever.

(y) As he was going on the Way he continues his Sermon, exhorting them to Perseverance in the Faith, and to mutual Love. "I am, says he, the true generous fruit-bearing Vine, and my Father who hath thus planted me here in the World below, hath the ordering of me. Every barren Branch, or unprofitable Disciple he cutteth off; but every Member that is fruitful he pruneth, and maketh fruitful. You are already sanctified by the Operation of my Doctrine and Spirit upon you, though you may need further pruning to render you more fruitful. Do you therefore take care, by your Obedience and Constancy, that I may be so fastned in your Hearts, that I may never be provoked to withdraw my self from you; for my Presence is absolutely necessary to you, to make you fruitful: as a Branch cut off from a Vine presently withers, so he that falls off from me, will soon be deprived of that Grace, which I distributed. As long as ye continue obedient to me and my Doctrine, all your Prayers shall be heard; which will bring Glory to my Father, and give you a true Title to my Discipleship. I have very much enlarg'd upon these Things to you, that the Comfort you have taken in my Presence, may in my Absence continue to you; and that by

(x) Miracles, See John 14, 12.

(y) As he, &c. John 15. 1, 2, &c.

“ the Addition of that Comfort of the Spirit, which  
 “ will visit you when I am gone, your Joy may a-  
 “ bound. I charge you to imitate my Love to you,  
 “ in mutually loving one another; a great Instance  
 “ of which I shall shortly give you, in laying down  
 “ my Life for you. I have given you the greatest De-  
 “ monstrations of my Love and Friendship; for I  
 “ have treated you as Friends, far above the Condi-  
 “ tion of Servants, who use not to know their Mas-  
 “ ter’s Intentions or Counsels, but only to do his Com-  
 “ mands; but I have received you as Friends and  
 “ Confidants into my Bosom, and made known all  
 “ my Father’s Will to you. If ye shall meet with  
 “ Infidelity and Persecutions, let this give you no  
 “ Discouragement, but arm yourselves against it with  
 “ this Consideration, that they thus treated me before  
 “ you. The Hatred of the World to you will be a  
 “ comfortable Symptom, that you are a peculiar Peo-  
 “ ple of mine, dignified above and distinguish’d from  
 “ the rest of Mankind. You must not think strange  
 “ to be thus vilely used by the World; for if they per-  
 “ secuted me your Lord, you must expect no better,  
 “ and all that you shall suffer will be imputed to their  
 “ not believing that God hath sent me. If I had not  
 “ personally appear’d and done these Things among  
 “ them, they might have pleaded Ignorance for their  
 “ Excuse, but now they are utterly inexcusable; for  
 “ I have said and done so much to evidence my Mis-  
 “ sion, that the Opposing me is a malicious Resisting  
 “ of my Father himself. By this they have fulfilled  
 “ that of the (2.) Psalmist, *They hated me without a Cause*.  
 “ But when the Holy Ghost, the Advocate of my  
 “ Cause, shall come, and whom I will send from the  
 “ Father, he shall maintain my Cause against all Op-  
 “ posers, and shall constitute you Witnesses of me to  
 “ all, being the fittest to testify of me, because ye have  
 “ been always with me. (a) All that I have hither-  
 “ to said is to fortify you, that you should not be de-

(2.) Psalmist. See Ps. 35. 19.

(a) All. See John 16. 1, 2, &c.  
“ terred

“terred from my Service by the Hazards that attend  
“it. Ye shall be ill used, and removed from the Sy-  
“nagogues; and they that treat you thus shall think  
“it an acceptable Service to God, if they put you  
“to Death; the Cause of all which is the great Im-  
“piety of their Hearts, neither liking the Commands  
“of my Father, nor those I bring from him. I thought  
“it not fit to tell you these Things till I was ready  
“to leave you, because whilst I was here, all the  
“Malice of Men bent it self against me, letting you  
“alone. But when I am gone from you, and you take  
“the grand Imployment upon you of revealing my  
“Father’s Will, the Opposition will light upon you.  
“I know the Thoughts of my leaving you fill your  
“Minds with Anxiety; but let this comfort you,  
“the Holy Ghost is not to come till I have left you,  
“and his Coming will be of more Advantage to you  
“than my Staying; and when he cometh, he will  
“plead my Cause against the World, and charge the  
“Jews with three Sorts of Actions practised in their  
“Courts. 1. With the Crime of not believing me to  
“be the Messias. 2. He will justify my Mission and  
“Innocence by my Ascension to Heaven, taking me  
“away out of the Reach of humane Malice, and re-  
“warding my Patience with his Consolation. 3. He  
“shall take revenge upon Satan and his Instruments  
“who crucified me, and retaliate Destruction upon  
“them. Besides all that I have said, I have many  
“Things more to communicate to you, but you can-  
“not bear them now. However, when the Holy  
“Ghost comes, whose Title is the (b) Spirit of Truth,  
“he will instruct you what is to be done. What he  
“doth shall tend to the Illustration of me: For he be-  
“ing sent from my Father by me, shall in all Things  
“accord with me, and thereby appear to have his  
“Message from me, and to declare nothing to you,  
“but what he hath from me. But whilst I say this,  
“I mean not to appropriate to my self, so as to ex-

(b) Spirit. See John 16. 13.

“clude

“clude my Father; but because all Things are com-  
 “mon to me and my Father, and because all my Will  
 “depends on the Father, and that it is my Work  
 “wholly to attend my Father’s Will, therefore what-  
 “soever of this Nature the Holy Ghost shall reveal  
 “to you, I call that mine, and the Revealing of this,  
 “his taking of mine and declaring it to you. With-  
 “in a while I shall be taken from you for a Time,  
 “and soon after I shall be with you again, before  
 “my Ascension, for it is not possible for me to be  
 “held by Death: I must arise and go to my Fa-  
 “ther.” This latter Part of his Discourse his Dis-  
 “ciples could not apprehend: Jesus therefore, to take off  
 “the Difficulty, explains it, telling them, “You shall  
 “have a Time of Mourning, and the World of Joy;  
 “but your Sadness shall soon be turned to Rejoycing,  
 “and theirs e’er long into Heaviness. Your Sorrow  
 “at my Death shall be like the Pangs of a Woman in  
 “Travail; but when it shall appear to you, that my  
 “Death doth but usher in my Resurrection and As-  
 “cension, as the Pangs of Travail do the Birth of  
 “a Child, then your Sorrow shall vanish at the Pre-  
 “sence of this Joy, which shall be lasting. When  
 “that Spirit is come, he shall teach you all Things  
 “satisfy all your Doubts and Ignorances, that you  
 “shall not need ask me any more Questions. After  
 “my departing you shall use a new Form in your  
 “Prayers to God, which hitherto you have not used;  
 “make your Request to him in my Name, and upon  
 “the Account of your being my Disciples: and my  
 “giving you this Authority, and whatsoever tendeth  
 “to the fulfilling of your Joy, or to your real Good,  
 “shall be granted you. My Talk with you hitherto  
 “hath been obscure; but the Holy Ghost shall set all  
 “Things plainly before you. And one great Advan-  
 “tage you will gain by my Ascension and the De-  
 “scent of the Spirit, that you shall not need my in-  
 “terfering up your Prayers for you, but you may in my  
 “Name offer them up to God your selves; and God

“on



“out of his Love and Regard to those that believe in me, shall grant all that you ask. I came from the Father into the World; and now I leave the World, and go to my Father.” This was such a plain Demonstration of all that he had spoken, that the Disciples scruple no more, their Apprehensions are enlightened, and they no longer question Christ or his Mission. “Now, say they, we perceive that as thou knowest all Things, so thou art pleased to reveal all saving Truth evidently to us of thine own accord; this convinces us that God sent thee, and that thou camest to reveal his Will.” Jesus perceiving their Forwardness and Fondness, and knowing the Frailty of their Nature, tells them; “You speak a little confidently now of your Belief, whilst you are at a distance from Danger: But the Time is now at hand, that ye shall all desert me; and though ye believe in me, ye will not yet confess me, but leave me alone. But though you shall all forsake me, my Father will not; for he will continue with me, will acknowledge me in Death itself, and raise me up from Death. This I have foretold you, that you may depend upon me for all kind of Prosperity, by considering my Conquest over all that is formidable in the World; therefore you ought not to fear, but take courage and hold out against all the Threats and Terrors of the World, and the Sufferings in it.” The Holy Jesus having ended his Sermon, sings an (c) Hymn with his Disciples; after which he goes with them over the Brook *Cedron* to the Mount of *Olives*, to a Village called *Gethsemane*, where there was a Garden, into which he entred to pray with his Disciples.

(c) Hymn. This Hymn was Part of a great Allelujah, beginning at the 118th Psalm [When *Israel* came out of Egypt] and ending at the 118th in-  
terely. It was the Custom of the Jews after supper to sing Verses or Psalms, especially over the Paschal Lamb; at which time they sang the Psalms a-

bove-mentioned. And though it is likely that this was the Hymn which Christ sang here with his Disciples; yet it is not improbable, that it was some other Hymn accommodated to this particular Institution of Christ's, and this sung by them all, in the same manner as we read of the Christians Hymn, *Acts* 4. 24.

Being



Being in the Garden with them, he selects his Favourites, *Peter, James, and John*, and retires from the rest about the Distance of a Stone's Cast; where he began to be exceeding sorrowful and sad even unto Death. For now he saw the Ingredients of this bitter Draught pouring into the Cup, and the Sight was full of Horror and Amazement; therefore with the greatest Humility and Renunciation of himself, he prays, *O my Father, if it be possible, let this \* Cup pass from me; avert this bloody and contumelious Death, if it be thy Will; if not, I more desire it than avoid it.* In this Prayer he fell into a sad Agony, and the Pains inflicted by his Father's Wrath were so great, that a Sweat distilled from his sacred Body as large as Drops of Blood; and God, who heard his Prayer, but would not answer it in kind, did yet send an Angel to comfort his human Nature in this Sadness, which he was pleased not yet to take away. But our Blessed Saviour, knowing that the drinking this Cup was the great End of his Coming into the World, and to which the Effects would be so advantageous, laid aside his own Interests, and divested himself of the Affections of Flesh and Blood, which entertain such dreadful Apprehensions of the great Struggle between Death and Nature, in an intire Obedience submits to his Father's Will; and because his Father commanded it, in Defiance of Sense and Passion, he was desirous to suffer all our Pains. Thrice did the Blessed Saviour of the World retire and repeat the same Prayer, "That if it were possible, the Cup might pass from him:" and thrice he made an humble Act of Resignation; and in the Intervals came and found his Apostles asleep; whom he mildly chides for their Incuriousness, warning them to watch and pray, that they

\* *Cup.* The Afflictions which God sends on Men are often in Scripture express'd by the Name of a *Cup*. This is a Metaphor borrowed from an ancient Custom of giving a Cup full of Poison to those that were condemn'd to die, as was done to *Socrates*; and *Gall*, according

to the Custom of the *Jews* on such occasions, to lessen the Pain of the Person that suffered. This Metaphor the Prophets made use of to express the Condition of the Wicked; and our blessed Saviour to express the painful Circumstances of his approaching Death.

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**ST MATT. CHAP. XXVI.** <sup>33</sup> **JESUS** went a-  
way again the second time, and prayed, saying.



**ST MATTHEW 26. Verſe 42.** <sup>172.</sup>

*O my Father, if this Cup may not  
paſſ away from me, except I drink it;  
thy will be done.*

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enter not into Temptation; and after he had the third Time finished his Devotions, coming to his Disciples, whom he found still sleeping, he says, "You may now enjoy your sleepy drowsy Humour; I shall make no further Use of your Vigilance; the Minute is now come that I shall be apprehended and taken from you, and carried before the Tribunal of the *Gentiles*."

Whilst the Blessed Jesus with his Disciples was retir'd to *Gethsemane*, *Judas* at the same Time having let him, goes to the Priests, with whom he had bargain'd to betray him, and tells them now was their Opportunity, for it was Night. This was the Advantage they desir'd, because they durst not take him by Day for fear of the People. Coming thither with an arm'd Multitude, and the Traitor *Judas* at the (d) Head of them, they enter the Garden, where they soon found what they sought for; but the Holy Jesus having by this Time join'd his Disciples, and standing among them, that the Guards sent to apprehend him might not mistake him, *Judas* had given them the Hint, that he whom he should kiss was the Person. But *Judas* might have spared this Part of his Treason, for the Divinity of his Master soon discover'd him. However, approaching him with an Address of seeming Civility, he kissed him. Then Jesus, seeing the Soldiers coming towards him, demand'd whom they sought for? They told him Jesus of *Nazareth*; upon which, knowing his Time was now come, he tells them, I am he. Then offering with their profane Hands to seize him, the impetuous Rays of Glory which issued from his Divine Face, struck fiercely upon their Eyes, that they fell to the Ground. These Soldiers, true Servants of the persecuting Jews, recovering from their Fall, and raised by the permission of Jesus, still persisted in their Inquiry after him, who was ready and desirous to be sacrificed. Jesus, as he had done before, begins the Inquiry,

(d) Head. See *Luke* 22. 47.

and leads them into their Errand, tells them he was Jesus of Nazareth, whom they sought : upon which offering to seize him, *Peter*, the bold zealous *Galilean*, seeing his Master thus ill used, attempts a Rescue, and asking his Master, whether he should make use of the (e) Sword in his Defence, before he had his Answer, cut off the Ear of *Malchus*, a Servant of the High-Priest. But Jesus rebuked the Intemperance of his Passion, and commanded him to put up his Sword, saying, *They that strike with the Sword shall perish with the Sword* ; intimating hereby, that we ought to restrain all illegal Expressions of Anger and Revenge against a competent Authority. And then turning to *Malchus*, he touched his wounded Head, and cured him, adding to the former Instance of his Power, in throwing them to the Ground that came to take him, an Act of miraculous Mercy, in curing the Wound of an Enemy made by a Friend. But further, to convince *Peter* of the Uselessness of humane Power in his Defence, he tells him, (f) “ If I would forcibly be relieved, I could pray to my Father, who would immediately furnish me with an Army of Angels. But the Prophets have foretold I must suffer, and their Predictions must be accomplish’d.” He therefore permitted himself to be taken, but not his (g) Disciples ; for he it was that set them their Bounds ; and he secured his Apostles to be Witnesses of his Sufferings and Glory, after which they were to have their Share and Fellowship in Affliction.

When our Blessed Lord in humble Resignation to his Father’s Will, and for the Redemption of the World, had yielded himself into the Hands of his Enemies

(e) *Sword*. There were two Swords in Christ’s Family, and St. *Peter* bore one : Either because he was to kill the Paschal Lamb ; or, according to the Custom of the Country, to secure them from Beasts of Prey, which in those Parts were frequent and dangerous in the Night. But now St. *Peter* used it in an unlawful War ; he had no competent Authority ; it was against the Mi-

nisters of his lawful Prince ; and against our Prince we must not draw a Sword for Christ himself, he having forbidden it. As his Kingdom is not of this World, so neither were his Defences secular Tears and Prayers being the only proper Arms of the true Servants of Jesus Christ.

(f) See Mat. 26. 53. &c.

(g) *Disciples*. See John 18. 8.

enemies



emies, his Disciples (*b*) fled: among whom was a young Man, that had a linen Cloth cast about his naked Body, whom the Soldiers indeavoured to apprehend by laying hold on the Linen; but he left it in their Hands, and (*k*) fled from them naked, though *Peter* followed his Master at a Distance. After the Soldiers had bound Jesus, they dragged him away to the (*l*) High-Priest's; but the House of *Annas*, which stood on Mount *Sion*, being in the Way to the House of *Caiaphas* the High-Priest, he was led thither, as to the first Stage of their Triumph over him. *Annas* being Prince of the *Sanhedrin*, had Cognizance of Prophets and publick Doctrines; he therefore inquired of Jesus concerning his Disciples, and his Discipline. But he answered, that his Doctrine had all along been very publick, preaching in their Synagogues and in the Temple, and never taught in (*m*) Conventicles; and therefore referred him to the Testimony of all the People, that had been his Auditors. An Officer of the *Sanhedrin*, considering this Answer of Jesus to *Annas*, as a Violation of the Sanctity due to the Person of the High-Priest, and thinking himself authorized by the Judgment of the Scribes and Pharisees, (*n*) struck Jesus on the Face; who, as became the Lamb of God, shewed as much Meekness and Patience in his Answer to him that struck him, as

(*b*) Fled. See *Mat.* 26. 56. *Mark* 14. 50, 51, &c.

(*k*) Young Man. This is by some supposed to be *John* the Evangelist, who through Grief forgetting to lay aside his outer Garment, which in Festivals was used to put on, began to make his escape; but being arrested by his Linen upon his bare Body, he was forced to leave that behind him, that himself might escape his Master's Danger.

(*l*) Fled. When *John* had mastered his first Inconsiderations of his Fear, he fled, and was a while after in the High-Priest's Hall. See *John* 18. 16.

(*m*) High-Priest. *Annas* and *Caiaphas* are both called Chief Priests, *Annas* being a Man of principal Authority among the Jews, and *Caiaphas* placed

by *Pontius Pilate* the Procurator in the Pontificate; for the Succession of the High-Priests was now changed, the one lineal Descendant in the Family of *Aaron*, which was to continue for Life, being not permitted to succeed, but some other, whom the Procurator pleased, named to that Office every Year, or renewed as often as he pleased.

(*n*) Conventicles. See *John* 18. 20.

(*n*) Struck Jesus. The Injury done to the holy Jesus in this Blow was heightened in two respects; first, because the Person that struck him was one *Malchus* an *Idumean* Slave, a most contemptible Person; and next, far more unworthy by his Ingratitude; for so he repayed the Holy Jesus for working a Miracle, and healing his Ear.

in his Answer to *Annas* he had shewed Prudence and Modesty. (o) "If there were any Evil in what I have said, accuse me, and prove it; but if there be no Crime in me, why dost thou strike me?" This was all the Protest the Son of the most High God made against so vile an Indignity.

*Annas* having suffer'd this unworthy Usage towards so excellent a Person, without any Resentment to the person that offer'd the Affront, (p) sends him away to *Caiaphas*, who formerly in a full Council had prophetically resolv'd he should die. But now palliating the Design with the Pretence and Scheme of a formal Tribunal, they seek out for Witnesses, and when they had suborn'd them, they are to seek for Allegations; nay, when they had with much Difficulty and Trouble found them, they are put to it for Proofs to make them good; so that nothing fairly, and in the Eye of Justice answer'd their Purpose. But the true Reason of their making Use of this Resemblance of a judicial Proceeding was, because that without *Pilate's* Authority they could not put Jesus to Death, they might persuade *Pilate* to accept of their Examination and Conviction without further Inquiry. But such was the Excellency and exemplary Piety of the Life and Conduct of the Holy Jesus, that whatsoever Questions of the Law they pretended against him, they fell so short of an allowable Accusation, that they could not be esteem'd Capital in a *Roman* Court. If they had affirm'd that he moved the People to Sedition and affected the Kingdom, they plainly knew that all the People could convince them of false Testimony for his whole Life was one continued Series of Submission and Obedience to the higher Power, and to confirm which he put himself to the Expence of a Miracle in sending *Peter* to fish for Money to pay the

(o) See *John* 20. 23.

(p) Sends him away. *Annas* without the seventy Assessors could determine nothing, though he was Prince of the *Sanhedrin*; and therefore he

sent him bound to *Caiaphas*, who was the High-Priest that Year, and President of the Rites of the Temple, as the other High-Priest was of the Council.

Collectors of the Tribute. At last, after many Attempts, they accused him of a figurative Speech; for some that had heard him speak of his own Death and Resurrection after three Days, under the Phrase of this (9) Temple, or the Temple of his Body, applied this to the Temple of *Jerusalem*, and bare Witness that he said so of that. But if this had been spoken in a literal Sense, and had been acted too according to the Letter, it had been so far from a Fault, that it would have been accounted a Prodigy of Power. In the mean time the Lamb of God left his Cause to defend it self under the Protection of his heavenly Father, for himself was determined to die; and besides, the Malice and Power of his Enemies over-ruled all he could urge in his Defence; he therefore gave no Answer to their railing Accusations. Which Silence of his fulfilled a Prophecy; it made his Enemies murmur, and admire to see him with such Serenity of Mind despise their Accusations, as so many apparent Calumnies, and remain fearless of the Issue.

All Attempts hitherto to insnare the innocent Jesus proving ineffectual, and at last his Silence confounding them, *Caiaphas* thinks he has a Reserve which will inevitably do the Business in that Assembly; and therefore to force him to break silence, he adjures him by the living God to tell him whether he be the Christ, the Son of God. The holy Jesus being adjur'd by so sacred a Name, would not now forbear an Answer, lest it might not consist with the Honour due to it, and which he always paid; and that he might neither despise the Authority of the High-Priest, nor on so solemn an Occasion be wanting to the great Truth, to which he came down from Heaven to persuade the World, he answers the High-Priest directly, owning himself to be the Messiah: Adding further, "I tell you, within a while you shall discern this Son of Man, whom you are now ready to crucify as Man, assumed into his Throne, installed in his heavenly Kingdom; an Es-

(9) Temple. See *John* 2. 19. *Mark* 14. 58, &c.

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“fect of which shall be visible in his acting Vengeance  
 “upon you, and that as discernably as if he were co-  
 “ming with his Angels, whose use to appear in bright (r)  
 “Clouds.” Here the High-Priest had his End, and to  
 Jesus it was no Disappointment, for he knew *Caiaphas’s*  
 Design in putting this Question, to be an Inquisition of  
 Death, not of Piety or Curiosity; and because his Hour  
 was now come, he openly and frankly affirms himself to  
 be Christ, the Son of the living God, without any Ex-  
 pedient to elude their Malice, or decline the Question.

The *Sanhedrin* having now gain’d the point, as they  
 miserably imagin’d, in making the Lord of Life accuse  
 himself, trouble themselves no further about (s) Wit-  
 nesses, for *Caiaphas* in the Name of the whole Assem-  
 bly accused him of Blasphemy, and pretended an Ap-  
 prehension so horrible and tragical, that he over-acted  
 his Wonder and feigned Detestation, for he (t) rent his  
 Garments, which, though it was the Custom of the  
 Country, was yet forbidden to the High-Priest.

But whilst these Things were acting concerning our  
 Lord Jesus, a sad Accident befel his Servant (v) *Peter*;  
 for being engaged in strange and evil Company, and in  
 the midst of Danger, though ashamed of deserting his  
 Master, yet willing to see what would become of him,  
 being in the High-Priest’s Palace, he is three Times

(r) *Clouds*. See *Mat.* 26. 64.

(s) *Witnesses*. See *Mat.* 26. 65.  
*Mark* 14. 63, 64.

(t) *Rent his Garments*. The rend-  
 ing of Clothes was an Expression of In-  
 dignation, holy Zeal, and Piety, among  
 the *Jews*, expressed on several Occasi-  
 ons, especially of Grief in Humiliation,  
 and of Anger in hearing any blasphem-  
 ous Speech. But this was unlawful  
 for the Priests in the common Accep-  
 tation, (see *Levit.* 10. 16. & 21. 10.) for  
 the Prohibition mention’d in *Leviticus*  
 extends only to the not tearing the sa-  
 cerdotal Garments, that is, of those  
 which are used only in the Priest’s Of-  
 fice (see *Exod.* 28. 32. & 39. 33.) and  
 agreeably the *Jews* have a Rule, *He*  
*that shall tear any of the Priests Gar-*  
*ments shall be beaten.*

It may not be unworthy Observation

here, that by *Caiaphas’s* rending his  
 Garments might be prophetically signi-  
 fied the rending of the Priesthood from  
 him and the *Jewish* Nation; for essen-  
 tially God so dispenses his Judgments, that  
 when Men in a theatrical hypocritical  
 manner personate the Tragedies of o-  
 thers, they really act their own

(v) *Peter*. He is thought by some  
 to have Admission into the Council, by  
 the means of another Disciple, supposed  
 to be *John* (called by *St. Mark*, ch. 14.  
 v. 50, 51. the young Man that left his  
 Linen Garment in the Hands of them  
 that were about to apprehend him) who  
 having sold his Possessions in *Galilee*  
 to *Caiaphas*, came and dwelt near  
 Mount *Sion*; by which Bargain he  
 was made known to the High-Priest,  
 and so brought *Peter* into the High-  
 Priest’s House.

challeng’d

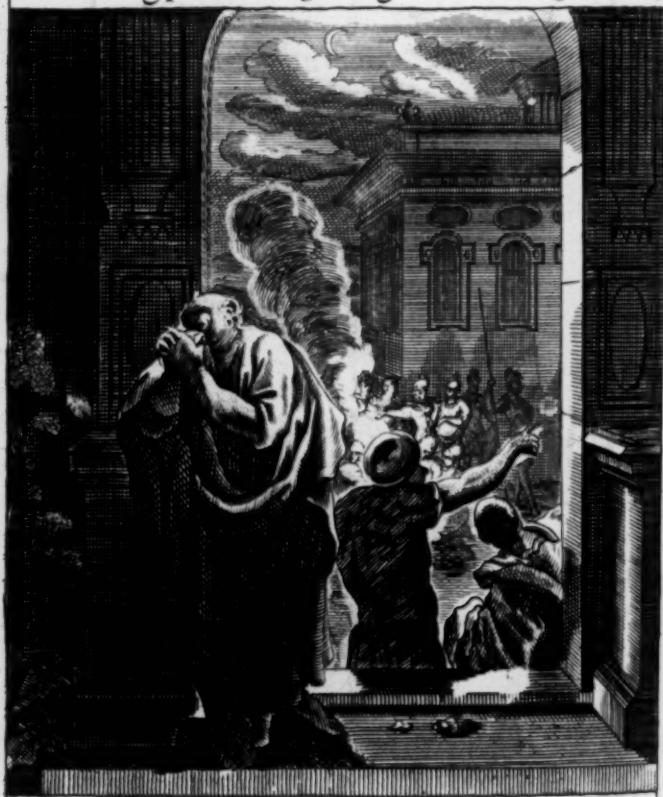
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ST MATTHEW CH. XXVI. <sup>34</sup> Peter remembering words of Jesus goes out & weeps bitterly



ST MATTHEW 26. Verse <sup>179.</sup> 75.  
*And Peter remembered the words of  
 JESUS, which said unto him before the  
 cock crow thou shalt deny me thrice.*

challeng'd by the Servants to be a *Galilean*, and of Jesus's Family. Surpriz'd thus with a Question which would not allow him time to deliberate an Answer, he shamefully at first, and with some Assurance denied his Lord. The second Question gave birth to a licentious Confidence in him, which upon the (w) third grew to downright Impudence; for with horrid Imprecations and Perjury, he denied that he knew his Master, who yet was known to him as his own Heart, was dearer than his Eyes, and for whom he professed a little before he would die; but did not so till many Years after. The holy Jesus in the midst of his own Sufferings forgot not *Peter's* Danger; but looking back upon him when the (x) Cock crew, reminded him of his Prediction, and the Foulness of the Crime. This Lapse of *Peter's* was very afflicting, and his Sorrow very pungent, for he went out and wept bitterly; and being but newly fallen, and his habitual Love of his Master, though interrupted, not abated, he return'd with speed to the Embraces and primitive Affections of his Lord.

By this time suppose Sentence given; and *Caiaphas*, whose Influence over the *Sanhedrin* was as great as his Prejudice to Jesus, having first declared him to have spoken (y) Blasphemy, and the Fact to be notorious, demanded their Votes, which none durst (z) refuse; upon which they all condemn'd him as guilty of Death.

The next Morning the Council was to assemble; and whilst Jesus was detain'd in expectation of it, the Soldiers and Servants offered all the Acts of Affront and Indignity they could invent to his sacred Person;

(w) Third. See *Mat.* 26. 69, 70, &c.

(x) Cock crew. It is reported of St.

Peter, that ever after when he heard

the Cock crew, he wept; remembring

his old Instrument of his Repentance

and Conversion, and his own Unwor-

thiness, for which he never ceased to do

acts of Sorrow and Penance.

(y) Blasphemy. See *Mat.* 26. 66, &c.

(z) Refuse. Whosoever should have

refused his Vote at that time, must have

defied the Judgment of the High-

Priest, which none dared then to do; for *Caiaphas* was advanced to the High-Priesthood by the Favour of the Romans, *Valerius Gratus*, President of *Judea*, having been his Patron: so that his Faction was potent, as his Malice was great, and his Heart set upon this Business of condemning the innocent Jesus; all which Inconveniencies none of them durst have hazarded, unless they had the Confidence as great as that of an Apostle at that Time.

some spitting on him, some buffeting him, and others covering his Eyes, and smiting him, call on him to prophesy who smote him. All which Injuries must have been greater than his Patience, if his Patience had been less than infinite.

When *Judas* heard that the *Sanhedrin* had passed the final decretory Sentence of Death upon his Lord and Master, seeing the matter went farther than he intended, he repented that he had been an Instrument of so damnable a Machination, and came and brought the Silver which they gave him for hire, threw it in among them, and said, *I have sinned, in betraying the innocent Blood.* But they, incurious of those Hell-Torments *Judas* felt within him, gave him poor Comfort, telling him it was nothing to them, being his own Act and Deed; and dismissing him, upon Consultation what to do with the Money (for it was the (a) Price of Blood) they agreed to purchase the Potter's Field, to bury (b) Strangers in. *Judas* having rid his Hands of the Money as a detestable Thing, departed to his own home and was so affected with Horror and Despair, that in a Fit of Melancholy or (c) Suffocation he suddenly fell down upon his Face, burst, and died.

(a) *Price of Blood.* It was a Custom among the *Jews*, imitated after by the first *Christians*, that it should not be Jawful for Executioners to offer any Thing, or for any Alms to be received from them (and the same also of Money that came out of the Publican's, or Quæstor's Exchequer;) and so by Analogy any Money with which a Life was bought was not to be put into the Treasury, it was the Price of Blood, and the Field bought with it called the *Field of Blood.*

(d) *Strangers.* The Strangers here meant may be either Men of other Nations, with whom the *Jews* would have no Commerce, even when they were dead, and therefore provided a separate Burying-Place for them; or they might be *Jews*, which coming from far to *Jerusalem* to sacrifice, died there before their return home; and so the Priests provided a Burying-Place for them: These perhaps might be those *Jews* that

travelled from *Rome* thither.

(c) *Suffocation.* The Translators make *St. Matthew* and *St. Luke* contradict one another very grossly in relating the Death of *Judas*. They make one say, *That he hang'd himself*, *Mat. 27.* and the other, *That he threw himself down head-long, burst aunder the midst, and that all his Bowels gushed out*, *Acts 1. 18.* This has obliged Interpreters to run to several Conjectures, equally ridiculous and groundless. Some say that he hang'd himself on a Tree, but the Branch yielding, and falling to the Ground could not strangle himself; and setting himself loose to gain, afterwards fell into a Drop-sy which he burst and died. Others pretend, that having been seen by the Jews when he was hanging, they took him down, and sav'd him; but that afterwards he went into a secret Place whence he threw himself head-long.

ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXVII.

They took Jesus into the common Hall.



ST MATTHEW 27. Verſe 28.

180.

*And they ſtripped him, and  
put on him a ſcarlet Robe.*

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And here it is worth while to consider the great Folly and Infelicity of *Judas*, in the sudden Disappointment of his covetous Expectation : It was at Midnight he receiv'd his Money in the House of *Annas*, and betimes the next Morning he repented his Bargain, when he went and threw his Money back ; but his Sin stuck close, and it is very much to be feared to a sad Eternity. Such is the Purchase of Treason, and the Reward of Covetousness : It is momentaneous and unsatisfactory in the Possession and Injoyment, uncertain and sudden in its Stay and Departure, horrid in the Remembrance, and Ruin, certain miserable Ruin in the End. Nor is there so much as Room left for Pity in this remediless Case ; for when *Judas* came in that sad Condition of Horror and Despair, and told his miserable Story to them that set him on Work, they sent him away unpitied : He had served their Ends in betraying his Lord, and those that hire such Servants use to leave them in Perplexity and Disaster, and expose them to Shame and Sorrow. The End of this Tragedy was, That *Judas* died an ignoble Death, marked with the Circumstances of a horrid Judgment, and perish'd by the most infamous Hands in the World, his own. Which, if confronted with the excellent Spirit of *St. Peter*, may be of vast Advantage and Use to us ; for though by denying his Master he did an Act as contradictory to his Honour and the Grace of God as could be easily imagin'd, yet suddenly recollecting his shameful Cowardice, and

swell'd, and burst. *Maldonat* rejects these Fables, to make room for a very uncertain Conjecture of his own. He pretends that *Judas* threw himself from some Place higher than that on which he intended to hang himself, and by the Force of the Swing when he fell himself off, the Rope breaking, he fell to the Ground, and burst ; or that his Belly swell'd, as it commonly happens to such as die in that manner, and a little after his Bowels burst out. But if the Translators have been mistaken in this Circumstance of the Death

of *Judas*, they have been no less so in rendering, *That he fell down, or threw himself headlong* ; for the Words of the Original only signify that he fell on his Face, as several learned Men have observed. And what *St. Luke* adds, *That he burst asunder in the midst, and that his Bowels gushed out*, agrees very well with what Physicians observe, that those who die of the Squinancy sometimes burst. We ought therefore to translate, *And having fallen on his Face, he burst asunder.*

taking Sanctuary in the Arms of his Lord, he returned to his Duty, and became an Example to the World of the Excellency of divine Mercy, and the Efficacy of a holy Hope, and a hearty and timely Repentance.

All Things being now ready for the Purpose, the High-Priest with his Council intending to give Jesus over to the secular Power, carry him to the House of *Pilate*, that he might ratify their Sentence, and bring it to Execution by his Military Power, that so they might at once be rid of their Fears, and enjoy their Sin in Security. Coming thither, they would not enter into the Judgment-Hall, because of the (d) Feast, which *Pilate* knowing met them; and finding they had already passed Sentence upon him, he demanded the Grounds of their Accusation against him. But they unwilling any should inquire into the Particulars of their Proceedings, gave him a general Answer, *If he were not guilty, we had not brought him to thee*: intending not to make *Pilate* Judge of the Cause, but Executor of their Cruelty. *Pilate* being willing to decline the Business, bid them judge him according to their own Law. They replied, it was not lawful for them to put any Man to (e) Death. But *Pilate* seeing the Violence of their Malice, and their Design of making him their Property and Tool, was still more averse from intermeddling in the Condemnation of an innocent Person, and demands fresh Instances and Arguments of their Accusations. The *Jews* perceiving the Governor's Coolness and Indifference towards them, and his studious declining their Interest, very artfully attempt him: For knowing him to be a

(d) *Feast*. They would not go into the Governor's Hall, where there was a Guard of *Roman* Soldiers, lest being present among the Heathens they should be defiled; this therefore being a legal Pollution, would make it unlawful for them to eat the Passover, of which no unclean Person was to partake.

(e) *Death*. Meaning, during the seven Days of unleavened Bread; as appears in the instance of *Herod*, who detained St. *Peter* in Prison, intending af-

ter *Easter* to bring him out to the People. Others think that all the Right of inflicting capital Punishment was taken from the *Jewish* Nation by the *Romans*; and *Josephus* writes, that when *Ananias* the High-Priest had by a Council of the *Jews* condemned St. *James*, the Brother of our Lord, he put him to death without the Consent of the *Roman* President, he was deprived of the Priesthood,

Creatur

(f) King

Creature of the Court of *Rome*, and a Slave to its Greatness, the High-Priest, to the scandal of his Character, becomes Informer and Prosecutor, accusing Jesus of Sedition, denying to pay Tribute to *Cæsar*, and calling himself King. Here was an Impeachment of High Treason against the *Roman* Emperor, and of which, as they thought, the Governor could not but take strict Cognizance, though it was no Part of the Accusation of those Crimes for which they had condemned him. *Pilate*, though satisfied of the Holy Jesus's Innocence, being caught by the subtil Craft of the *Jews*, could no longer evade the Trial of our Saviour, and therefore takes his Seat in the *Pretorium*, or Judgment-Hall, all the Discourse before happening at the Entrance; for the *Jews*, who made no Conscience of killing the King of Heaven, yet made a Scruple of the external Customs and Ceremonies of their Law. The Court being sat, *Pilate* as Judge calls for Jesus, and asked him whether he was the King of the *Jews*. Jesus desired to know whether he asked this Question for his own private Satisfaction, or as a Crime laid to his Charge by the *Jews*. *Pilate* replied, "Can I know what the *Jews* out of their Books and Prophecies expect and promise themselves? The *Jews* have laid this to your Charge, That you pretend to be their King. What have you done to give Occasion for this Charge?" In answer to *Pilate's* Question Jesus said, "I pretend not to an earthly Kingdom: If I did, I should ingage my Followers in a military Manner to assist me as their King, and defend me from being delivered into the *Jewish* Power; but on the contrary it appears, that I pretend not to any such earthly Kingdom." *Pilate* then asked him whether he was a King. Jesus answered, "It is as thou sayest: I am indeed a King; I was born in human Flesh to this End, namely to be a (f) King; and for this Cause came I into the World, that I should testify the Truth of God;

(f) King. See *John* 18. 37, *Luke* 1. 32,

“ therefore I testify this, and every Servant of God  
 “ is convinced of it, and accordingly receives and  
 “ obeys me.” *Pilate* hearing *Jesus* disclaiming all secular Kingdoms, thought he had nothing to do to examine him about it; and therefore withdrawing from the Court to the Entry, where the *Jews* were impatiently expecting the Ratification of the *Sanhedrin’s* Sentence, in order to Execution, he, contrary to their Hopes, tells them he could find (g) nothing worthy of Death in *Jesus*. Upon this Disappointment the *Jews* grew exceedingly fierce and clamorous, charging *Jesus* afresh with teaching seditious Doctrine in all Parts of *Judea*, from *Galilee* even to this very Place. *Pilate* hearing them name *Galilee*, very pressinglly desires to know whether *Jesus* was a *Galilean*; and being inform’d that he was, he readily takes hold of this Occasion to discharge himself from the *Jews* Importunity, and his own further Concern in this unjust Trial: Besides, considering that *Galilee* was under *Herod’s* Government, and supposing *Herod* by his Knowledge in the *Jewish* Religion and Laws to be a fitter Judge for the Cognizance of this Case, he remitted the Hearing of it to *Herod*, who was then at *Jerusalem* upon the Occasion of the Feast. *Herod* was no less proud of the Honour done him by *Pilate*, than glad to have the Person of the Blessed *Jesus* in his Power; for having heard much of his Fame, he expected to see some Miracle done by him. Notwithstanding this Removal of the Cause from *Pontius Pilate* to *Herod*, the *Jews* were as furious in their Prosecution as before, and pursue the innocent *Jesus* to *Herod’s* Palace, where they renew their Accusation, and demand Justice. But the Holy *Jesus*, knowing it to no purpose to make any Defence before a prejudic’d Judge and a partial Auditory, is altogether silent, neither justifying himself, nor gratifying *Herod’s* Curiosity, by shewing any extraordinary Performance before him as he expected. This gall’d the proud Tyrant’s Heart

(g) Nothing. See *Luke* 23. 4. *John* 18. 38,



who thought his Power could command any Thing within the Verge of his Dominion; and therefore to be reveng'd, he delivers him to his Attendants, who use him with all the Ridicule and Ignominy they could invent, and which he bore with admirable Patience, shaming their brutal Deportment by his extraordinary Equanimity and Temper. *Herod*, having glutted his Revenge in exposing *Jesus* to the utmost Contempt, remands him back to *Pilate*, who assembling the *Sanhedrin* and People, makes this Speech to them. "Ye have brought this Man before me as a seditious Person, and Perverter of the People; upon which Accusation I have strictly examined him before you, but have not found him guilty in any capital Manner of what is laid to his Charge by you. Nor is this my Opinion only; for I sent him, and referred his Business to *Herod*, who, being more acquainted with your Religion and Customs than I am, may be allowed to be a more competent Judge; and after he had Cognizance of him, he has no way express his Opinion that his Crimes are capital. His Punishment therefore shall be only that of scourging with Whips, and so he shall be discharged." *Pilate* affecting the Innocence of *Jesus* by *Herod's* tacit, and his own positive Opinion, hoped to prevail upon the Rulers, by making it a Favour from them to *Jesus*, and an Indulgence from him to the Nation, to set him free. He was convinced of *Christ's* Innocence, and was willing to save his Life, by inflicting some inferior punishment on him: But they peremptorily demand Execution, crying out, *Crucify him, Crucify him*. *Pilate*, still tender of shedding innocent Blood, expostulates a third Time with the cruel *Jews*, demanding what Evil he had done; for as to his own Part, he could not see in what he had deserved Death. But the *Jews*, growing more noisy, demand Execution. *Pilate* has still one Opportunity more of trying to release *Jesus* with the Consent of the People, though he had Power of himself to do it: This being the Time



Time of the yearly Passover, a solemn Feast of the *Jews*, it was customary with the Procurator to gratify the *Jews*, by pardoning some Prisoner of that Nation; and, that it might be the greater Obligation to them, to give them Liberty to chuse whom they pleased by Votes of the People. *Pilate* therefore offer'd that, according to the Custom of the Nation, *Jesus* should be released for the Honour of the present Festival, and as a Donative to the People. But in vain were *Pilate's* Attempts to rescue him from their Malice, which was so prevalent, that they desired *Barabbas*, a Thief, a Murderer, and a Rebel, might be exchanged for him. Then *Pilate*, still casting about Ways to acquit *Jesus* of Punishment, and himself of Guilt, offer'd to (b) scourge him, and let him go. This so incens'd them, that they mix'd their Cries with Threats; they boldly tell the Governor to his Face, If he did release this Man, he was no Friend to *Cesar*: and instead of the innocent *Jesus* they demand the guilty *Barabbas* to be delivered to them, desiring to have him crucified that rais'd the Dead, and to have him releas'd that destroy'd the Living. When *Pilate* saw the *Jews* so obstinately resolute to destroy *Jesus*, and that all the Declarations of his Innocence instead of allaying their Malice, did on the contrary make them ready to mutiny, he solemnly called for Water, and in the Presence of them all washed his Hands to demonstrate his own Unwillingness, and transfer the Guilt upon them, saying, *I am innocent of the Blood of this just Person, take it upon your selves*: Who took upon them as greedily as they sucked the Blood, and

(b) *Scourge*. *Pilate* being willing to deliver *Jesus* from capital Sentence, appointed this Punishment of Scourging to be inflicted on him: For it is evident that *Pilate* did not think *Jesus* guilty of any capital Crime, and consequently not worthy to be crucified. So likewise, besides his own Conscience, his Wife's Dream did make him not only very unwilling to pronounce Sentence of Death upon him, but very industrious to find some Pretence of re-

leasing him; and that finally, only the Importunity of the *Jews* which he sacrificed him. From whence it is plain that he proposed this Scourging of *Jesus* to the *Jews* as a lighter Punishment, proportionable to his intended Crimes, and then to release him. Which shews that this was not that Scourging used by the *Jews* to criminals condemn'd for capital Crimes before they were to be crucified.



**ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXVII.**

Pilates Wife is affrighted in a Dream.



**ST MATTHEW 27. Verse 19.**

*And sent unto him saying, have thou nothing to do with that just man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.*

ing out, *His Blood be upon us and our Children.* The wretched Governor, who had hitherto been very solicitous to divert the *Jews* Malice from prosecuting the Holy Jesus to Death, at last yields to their importunate Cries, and was just about to deliver him to them; but as he was going to give Sentence, behold the Indulgence of Heaven in giving him another Warning, besides the Checks of his own Conscience, not to engage in this bloody Affair; the tender Wife of his Bosom, incited by the Terrors of her Dreams, with the Earnestness and Passion of a Woman, sends to him to dissuade him from meddling in the Death of that just Person. But the Governor, tired out with the importunate Clamours of the *Jews*, or rather threatened into a Compliance, his Wife's Solicitation comes too late; he is already engaged: *Cesar* and Jesus, God and the King, seem'd to have two different Interests in him. And it is very much to be fear'd, that though *Pilate* was satisfied that the Accusation was but Calumny and Malice, yet he was loth to venture upon his Answer at *Rome*, in case the High-Priest should have accused him there: And therefore, not only against the Divine Laws, but against the *Roman* too, he condemn'd an innocent Person, upon Objections notoriously malicious, and adjudg'd him to a Death which was only due to publick Thieves, and Homicides, (Crimes with which he was not charg'd) upon a Pretext of Blasphemy, of which he stood accus'd, but not convicted, and for which by the *Jewish* Law he should have been stoned, if found guilty. And this was put into (i) present Execution.

And now the last Scene of this sad Tragedy was at hand, when the Holy Lamb was to be sacrificed to the implacable Malice of the blood-thirsting *Jews*. First therefore *Pilate's* Soldiers array him in a Royal Robe, put a Reed in his Hand for a Scepter, plait a Crown of Thorns and put it on his Head; they bow

*Present Execution.* This was decreed in favour of condemned Persons, that after Sentence passed Execution should be deferr'd ten Days.

the

the Knee, and mock him with a sham Profession of Allegiance; they smite him with his phantastick Scepter, and instead of Tribute, pay him with Blows and Spittings on his sacred Head: And when they had emptied their whole Stock of poisonous Contempt, they divested him of the Robes of Mockery, and put on him his own. They lead him to a Pillar, to which they bind him fast; and that they might add a new Scorn to his Afflictions, and make his Sorrows vain and mountainous, like their own Guilt, they scourge him with Whips, a Punishment that Slaves only used to suffer. The Soldiers execute this Part of the Sentence with Violence and unrelenting Fury, tearing his tender Flesh, till the Pavement was crimson'd with a Shower of his precious Blood. And in this mangled and torn Condition *Pilate* brought him forth, and shewed him a sad Spectacle to the People, who were so far from melting at the Sight of this deplorable Object, that they redouble their clamorous Cries: Nothing but Crucifixion will appease them. Nothing then prevailing; nor the Innocence of Jesus, nor his Immunity from *Herod's* Sentence, nor the industrious Care of *Pilate*, nor the Misery of the afflicted Lamb of God, being capable of moving the hard-hearted Multitude, (k) *Pilate*, setting *Barabbas* at liberty, delivered Jesus to be crucified.

The Soldiers having fram'd a (l) Cross, laid it upon Jesus's Shoulders, and drove him out to Crucifixion.

(k) *Pilate*. The Jews took the Blood, which *Pilate* seem'd to wash off, upon themselves and their Posterity. And the Blood of this Paschal Lamb stuck upon them, and mark'd them, not as *Cain* to escape, but to fall under the Sword of the destroying Angel: And they perished either by a more hasty Death, or shortly after in the general Extirpation and miserable Ruin of their Nation. And *Pilate*, who had a less Share in the Guilt, had yet a black Character of a secular Judgment; for not long after he was by *Vitellius*, the President of *Syria*, sent to *Rome*, to answer

to the Crimes objected against him by the Jews, to please whom he had done so much Violence to his Conscience, and by *Cesar's* Sentence he was banish'd to *Vienna*, and depriv'd of all his Honours, where he lived ingloriously, and through Impatience of his Calamity, killed himself with his own Hand. Thus the Blood of Jesus, shed for the Salvation of the World, became to him a Curse.

(l) *Cross*. It is generally supposed that Jesus bore the whole Cross, that is, the long Part, and transverse or cross Part; but to him that considers this



ST JOHN CHAP. XIX. 37

And the Soldiers platted a crown of thorns,



ST JOHN 19. Verse 2. 3. 188.

*And put it on the head of JESUS, and said,  
Hail KING of the Jews: and they smote him  
with their hands.*

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But when he was come to the Gate of the City, his tender Body weaken'd with the former ill Treatment, and being ready to faint under this additional Load of Affliction, they compell'd one *Simon* a *Cyrenian* to help him to carry his Cross; not out of any favour to ease him of the Weight, but for fear he should die by the Way, with less Shame and Smart than they intend-  
 ed him. Jesus being led out of the Gates of *Jerusalem*, a great and mix'd Multitude followed him to *Golgotha*, the Charnel-House of the City, and the Place of Execution: And though the profane Croud look'd upon him as nothing more than a Spectacle fit to gratify their impious Gazings, yet some tender Matrons burst into pious Tears at the Sight of his Sufferings; which Sadness of theirs was increased by the woful Predictions Jesus made of their approaching Misery, saying, "Weep not for me, ye Daughters of *Jerusalem*, but for your selves, and for your Children; for the Time shall come that Men shall say, *Blessed are the barren that never bare, and the Paps that never gave suck*; who have no Posterity to inherit the Calamities now ready to befall them. How dismal must their Condition be, who shall call to the Hills to cover them, and the Mountains to fall on them, to dispatch them by a sudden Destruction, that they may escape the lingring Calamities of Famine and Fear, and the Horror of a thousand Deaths." When the Holy Jesus was come to (m) *Golgotha*, they offer'd him Vinegar mingled with (n) Gall to drink;

will seem impossible. This *Lipshius*, in his *Treatise de Supplicio Crucis*, seems to set in a true Light, saying, That Jesus only carried the transverse Beam, the long Piece of Timber being before fixed in the Ground. This is indeed more likely, and more agreeable to the manner of crucifying Malefactors, and that Jesus only carried the cross part, the Body of the Cross being upon the Place either already fixed, or prepared for its Station. And therefore, the same Author, Painters are very

much mistaken in their Description of Jesus carrying the whole Cross.

(m) *Golgotha*. It was a Place in Mount *Calvary*, where, according to the Tradition of the Ancients, viz. *Tertullian*, *Origen*, *Athanasius*, and others, *Adam* was buried, and where *Abraham* made an Altar for the intended Sacrifice of his Son.

(n) *Gall*. Interpreters, and others, vary very much about this Passage, taking it two different Ways, as *St. Matthew*, ch. 27. v. 34. and *St. Mark*, ch. 15 v. 23

drink; but he refused it. Then the Soldiers, just ready to finish this bloody Tragedy, strip our Blessed Lord of his Clothes; and when they had nailed his prostrate Body to the Cross with four Nails, they fix'd the Cross in the Ground, which, by its Fall in to the Place of its Station, must needs occasion infinite Torture by so violent a Concussion of the Body of our Lord, which rested upon nothing but four great Wounds. Here the Saviour of the World was designed by his pitiless Enemies to suffer a long and (o) lingering Torment: For Crucifixion, though it was a sharp and exquisite Pain, was not expeditious in taking away Life.

And now behold the Prince and Sacrifice of the World laid (p) naked upon the Altar of the Cross bleeding, tortured, and dying, to reconcile his Father to us. But the Officers of this Execution, not contented with the Indignities they had hitherto offered to his sacred Person, add yet this one more to the rest of the Ignominy, crucifying a Thief on each Side of him, to detract the more from his Innocence. And whilst he was in his Agony upon the Cross, he might see his Executioners extending their Cruelty to him in the most minute Degree, dividing his Man-

v. 23. seem to express it. Some will have it, that in St. Matthew's Sense, Vinegar mingled with Gall was a bitter poisonous Draught, to stupify the Person that drank it, that benumbing the Sense he might feel less Pain. Those that differ from this, say, that by the Piety of some of the Disciples, and, it is probable, of some of those good Women who used to minister to Jesus, there was prepared Wine mingled with Myrrh, which, according to Pliny, among the *Levantine*s, is an excellent and pleasant Mixture, and such as the Piety and Indulgence of the Nations used to administer to condemned Persons, to fortify their drooping Spirits against the Terrors of approaching Death. But be it which way it will, the holy Jesus, by a voluntary taking our Nature upon him, did chuse to suffer the Pains thereof without the Refreshment their

Piety intended, either by stupifying the Sense, or fortifying his Spirits.

(o) *Lingring Torment.* St. Andrew was two whole Days upon the Cross, and some Martyrs have upon the Cross been rather starved and devoured by Birds, than killed with the Torment of the Tree.

(p) *Naked.* It is a very good observation that Origen makes of the reportment of the Jews: St. Matthew ch. 27. v. 31. mentioning the stripping our Blessed Saviour of his Robes, does not take any notice that they took off the Crown of Thorns, they crucified him with that on his Head; which shews they retained the covetous Temper, in leaving him nothing of any Value, their Avarice and Cruelty pursuing him to the last moment of his Life.

the into four Parts, giving to each Soldier a Part; but as to his Coat, which was one intire Piece, and weaved without Seam, because it would be spoiled, if divided, they cast Lots for it.

*Pilate*, who had contrary to his Conscience, and thro Fear of losing his Government, sacrificed *Jesus* to the *Jews*, had caused a (*q*) Title, containing the Cause of his Death, to be superscribed on a Table in *Hebrew*, *Greek*, and *Latin*, to be set over his Head on the Cross, *JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS*: But the Pharisees would have it alter'd, and that he said he was the King of the *Jews*. But *Pilate*, whether out of Wilfulness, or Spite to the *Jews*, who had contrary to his Inclination forc'd him to sacrifice our Blessed Lord, or in Honour to *Jesus*, whom he knew to be a just Person, or whether he was overruled by a divine Providence, refused to alter it.

Whilst the innocent *Jesus* was in the midst of all his Torments, no Accent of Murmur, no Expression of Resentment to his Persecutors passed his Lips; but instead of that a holy and charitable (*r*) Prayer for his Enemies, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*. While he was thus full of Pain and Charity, praying and dying for them, those of the *Sanhedrim* that were present deriding him, upbraided him with the good Works he had done among them, saying, *He saved others, himself he cannot save*; others saying, *Let him come down from the Cross, if he be the King of the Jews, and we will believe in him*; and others, according as their Malice was dictated by Fancy or Occasion, added all the Weight and Scorn to his Pains they could: And among the rest, of the two Male-

*Title*. This Title or Inscription was written after the *Jewish* manner, in the right Hand to the left, the Letters being to be read as if they were *Hebrew*: The Reason of which is supposed to make it more legible to the *Jews*, who by conversing with the *Romans*, began to understand the *Latin*.

*Prayer*. This Prayer is said to

have been so efficacious, that within five and sixty Days after our Saviour's Crucifixion eight thousand of his Enemies were converted. So potent is the Prayer of Charity, that it prevails above the Malice of Men, turning the Arts of Satan to serve the Designs of God; and when Malice occasions the Prayer, the Prayer becomes an Antidote to Malice.

factors



factors that were crucified with him, (s) one blasphemously reviled him, saying, *If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us.* But the other Thief, whom the present Pains and Circumstances of Jesus's Passion had soften'd into a happy, though late Belief, reproved his Fellow for not (t) fearing God, confessed their Shame and Unworthiness, that they suffer'd the Punishment due to their Sin, but that Jesus suffer'd undeservedly; and to shew the Strength of his early Faith, he prayed, *Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom;* which express'd not only his Faith but an incomparable Modesty and Humility. He knew himself so sinful, he durst ask no more. But the Holy Jesus, notwithstanding his humane Nature labour'd under extreme Torment, with so much Tenderness entertains this Application of the pious Thief's Devotion, who acknowledg'd him for his King and Saviour, that he gives him a speedy Promise of Felicity, assuring him, that that very Day he should be with him in Paradise.

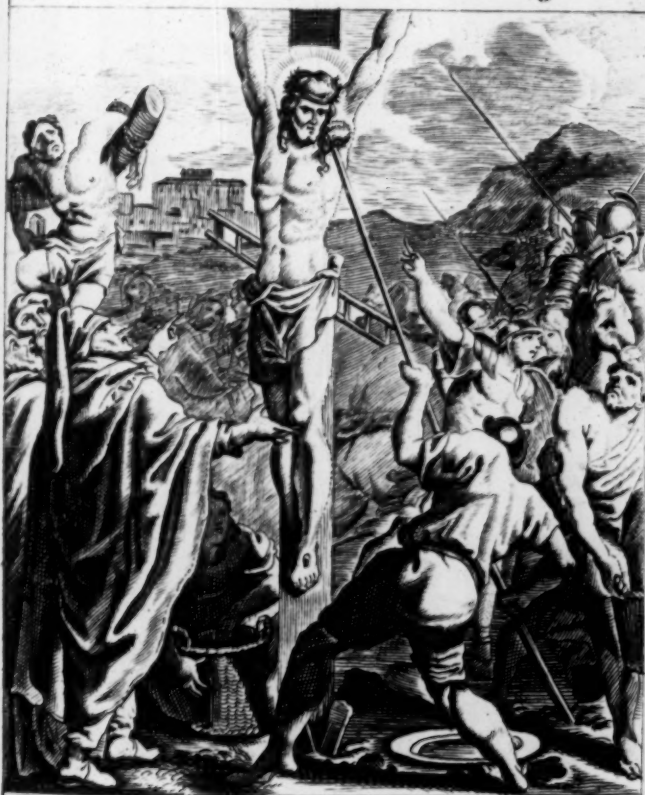
By the Cross of Christ stood the Holy Virgin-Mother, a sad Spectatrix of this dismal Tragedy, attended with her Sister, *Mary the Wife of Cleophas, Mary Magdalen, and John:* And now was literally verified upon her the Prophecy of old *Simeon*; for her Grief though sad and silent, was yet as pungent as a Sword passing through her very Soul. The Holy Jesus in his Agony sees his sorrowful Kindred deploring his sufferings, and considering his Mother as a Widow, and in a short Space of Time to be childless, willing

(s) *One.* If we compare *Mat. 27. v. 44.* (where 'tis said, *That the Thieves who were crucified with Jesus cast the same in his Teeth*) with what we find in *Luke 23. 39.* (where 'tis said, *One of the Malefactors that was hanged rail'd on him, &c.*) we may be apt to fancy some Contradiction between the Evangelists. But this the Commentators reconcile, by shewing that the Plural Number is used in those Places for the Singular, which is very common in the Style of the Hebrews;

as, when it is said, *That the Ark rested on the Mountains of Ararat, Gen. 4.* that is, on one of the Mountains. *That God overthrew the Cities which Lot dwelt, Gen. 19. 29.* whereas Lot could dwell but in one at a Time. Several other Examples. But it will be much more reasonable to make these Difficulties disappear in a Translation design'd for the People, who are strangers to Rules of Criticism.

(t) *Fearing God.* See *Luke 23. 41, 42, 43.*

**ST LUKE CHAP. XXIII. 38**  
The people with y<sup>e</sup> Rulers derided Jesus.



**ST LUKE 23. Verse 36. 192.**  
*And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, saying, If thou be the King of the Jews etc.*

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make a Provision for her, that she might not be exposed to Necessity and Want, calls to his favourite Disciple *John*, making him her adopted Son, and her his Mother, saying, *Woman, behold thy Son*; and, *Man, behold thy Mother*. And from that time *John* took her to his own House, which he had near Mount *Sion*, after he had sold his Inheritance in *Galilee* to the High-Priest, where he always paid her the Respect due to a Parent.

During these sad Transactions the whole Frame of Nature seem'd to be dissolv'd; the great (v) Luminary of the World withdrew his Light, the Heavens put on dark and gloomy Mourning, and nothing but dismal Horror cover'd the Face of the Earth at the Sight of such a Prodigy of Sin and Sadness. The Eclipse and Passion began at Twelve, and lasted till Three of the Clock; about which Time the Holy Jesus being tormented with the intolerable Load of his Father's Wrath due for the Sins of Mankind, and wearied with Pains and Heaviness, began to complain, as if God had deserted him in his Extremity, crying out, (w) *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

After this the Holy Jesus, just upon the Point of Expiring, considering that almost all the Prophecies concerning him had punctually been fulfilled; to complete the (x) one remaining Prediction, he calls for something to drink, saying, *I (y) thirst*; well knowing that, according to the Psalmist, they would give

(v) *Luminary*. At the Time of our Saviour's Passion, the Sun was so darkened, that the Stars appeared; and the Eclipse was prodigious in the Manner, as well as in Degree, because the Moon was not then in Conjunction, but full: it was noted by *Phlegon*, the freed-man of the Emperor *Hadrian*, by *Luce*, out of the Acts of the *Gauls*, and *Justin*, while he was yet a Heathen, and all the Scholars all, great Historians and Philosophers; who also noted the Day of the Day, and Day of the Week, being with the Circumstances of the

that he repeated the whole two and twentieth Psalm, which is a pathetic and admirable Narrative of the Passion, full of Prayer and Sadness, and Description of his Pains at first, and of Joy and Prophecy at last. But these Words, which it is certain and recorded that he spake, were in a Language of it self, or else by reason of Distance not understood; for they thought he had called for *Elias* to take him down from the Cross.

(x) *One remaining*. See *Psalm* 69. 21.

(y) *Thirst*. See *John* 19. 28, 29, &c.

(w) *My God*. It is thought by some, [Vol. 3.]

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him (z) Vinegar; which accordingly they did, and one of the Soldiers filled a Sponge with Vinegar, and wrapped it about with Hyssop, and put it on a Reed, that he might drink. But Jesus only tasted it, refusing to drink. And now knowing that all the Prophecies concerning his humane Life were fulfilled, his Father's Wrath appeased, and his Torments satisfactory, he said, *It is finished*; and bowing his Head, as in a Gesture of Adoration and Prayer, he said, *Father, into thy Hands I commend my Spirit*, and so expired. Thus did the glorious Sun of Righteousness set in sad Clouds of Darkness here, in order to shine more illustriously hereafter.

Nor did Nature yet cease to shrink at the Perpetration of such unnatural Barbarities, for this sad Tragedy was concluded with a most unusual Scene of Horror. At the Expiration of the Holy Lamb, the (a) Veil of the Temple rent in the midst, from the Top to the Bottom; and so great an Earthquake happened, that the (b) Stones of the Temple gave way and broke, the Graves opened, and the Bodies of many pious Men, which had been dead, arose out of their Tombs, and (c) after his Resurrection they also went into the City of *Jerusalem*, and were there seen and known by many. This last Scene of Horror so struck the Apprehensions of the Spectators with Amazement, that

(z) *Vinegar*. The Vinegar and the Sponge were in Executions of condemned Persons set ready to stop the too violent Flux of Blood, in order to prolong the Death: but to the Blessed Jesus they were exhibited in Scorn; for being mingled with Gall, the Mixture was more horrid and unpleasant.

(a) *Veil*. See *Mat. 27. 51, &c.* The Veil of the Temple was the Partition Wall of Stones, which separated the secret *Mosaic* Rites of the Sanctuary from the Court where the People assembled, and screen'd the Holy of Holies from their View.

(b) *Stones*. The Word *Petra*, which in our Translation is render'd *Rocks*, must relate most properly to the Tem-

ple, and therefore be render'd *Stones*. For this Earthquake cannot, as is conceiv'd by some, be supposed to be that Earthquake which happen'd in the Reign of *Tiberius Caesar*, which destroyed twelve Cities of *Asia*. But by the Text it appears to belong only to the Temple of *Jerusalem*, the Parts of which are mention'd, viz. the *Veil*, the *Ground*, and the *Stones* of the Building, the *Tombs*, &c. And it's not improbable, that this Prodigy was shewed particularly on this Place, to foretel the Destruction of the Temple and its Service, for their crucifying Christ.

(c) *After*. See *Mat. 27. 53.*



from the Prodigies they conclude him (*d*) innocent ; and smiting their Breasts with Fear and Remorse at what was done, they returned sorrowful. But none were so deeply affected as the Centurion, or Captain of the *Roman* Guard, that attended the Execution ; for he, by immediate Conviction from what he saw, (*e*) affirms him to be the Son of God.

The Day of our Saviour's Crucifixion being the Preparation or Eve to the Paschal Festival, which fell on the *Jewish* Sabbath, and so a Feast and a Sabbath together, the *Jews*, that the dead Bodies might not hang on the Cross till the Day following, hasten'd to take them down ; and therefore sent to *Pilate*, to order their Legs to be broken, that they might be taken away and buried. Which was accordingly done, and the Soldiers came and broke the Legs of the two Thieves, but seeing, and wondering that Jesus was already dead, they did not break his Legs ; for the Scripture had foretold, that a (*f*) Bone of him should not be broken. But a Soldier with his Lance, revengefully intending to supply the Defect of that Custom, which he thought they neglected, by not breaking the Legs of Jesus, pierced his holy Side, and immediately there gushed from the Wound (*g*) Water and Blood.

After

(*d*) *Innocent.* See *Luke* 23. 47.

(*e*) *Affirms.* See *Mat.* 27. 54. *Mark* 15. 39. This Centurion was converted by the Sight of our Lord's Crucifixion, and became a Disciple : And renouncing his military Employment, died a Martyr.

(*f*) *Bone.* See *Psalms* 34. 20. The Occasion of this Custom must either proceed from a Design of finishing the Execution ; or, lest after they were taken down from the Cross and left, they should come to Life, and escape by running away : The last of which this breaking of their Legs did effectually prevent.

(*g*) *Water and Blood.* *St. John* the Evangelist, who was an Eye-witness of this Passage, affirms it in a particular manner, *ch.* 19. v. 35. and in

his first Epistle, *ch.* 5. v. 6. he makes Use of it, as of great Moment, saying, *This is he that came with Water and Blood, not by Water only, but by Water and Blood.* The Water was the Emblem of all spotless Purity, and the Blood was the Evidence of his Fortitude and constant Patience, laying down his Life for the Truth of God : And these Two testify the Necessity of their being in every one that believes aright in Christ. But among the many and great Importances of the *Water* and *Blood*, the Ancients have observ'd also, That by a special Act of God's Providence, there flowed at this Time from Christ's Side, the Two Sacraments of his Church, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord.

After this in the Evening, *Joseph* of (b) *Arimathea*, an honourable (i) Counsellor, who was one of *Jesus's* Disciples, but durst not own himself openly, for fear of the *Jews*, went confidently to *Pilate*, and begged the Body of *Jesus*. *Pilate*, scarcely believing *Jesus* was so soon dead, calls the Centurion who was present at the Crucifixion, and asked him, whether he was yet dead? Who assuring he himself saw him expire, *Pilate* gave Order for the Body to be delivered to *Joseph*; who with Joy and Haste prepares to imbalm it according to the *Jewish* Manner of Sepulture, sparing for no Cost in Perfumes and Unguents to adorn the Funeral: To which Charge, *Nicodemus*, another latent Disciple of Christ, is no mean Contributor; for he brought an hundred Pound Weight of Myrrh and Aloes for the same Purpose. Having (k) wound up the Body in the Materials of Imbalment, *Joseph* gives the Corps of his Lord the Honour of Priority in a new Sepulchre, which in an adjacent Garden he had prepared for his own Interment; it being unlawful among the *Jews* to inter a condemn'd Person in the common Cœmeteries. However, all other Circumstances were according to the *Jewish* Manner.

The Body of the Holy *Jesus* being thus decently and devoutly interr'd by his Friends and Disciples, the Chief Priests and Pharisees about Sun-set, in a whining Manner address themselves to *Pilate*, saying, Sir, *We remember that that Deceiver whilst he lived said, After three Days I will rise again.* " Therefore to pre-

As to the natural Reason of the Flux of Water and Blood from our Lord's Wound, Anatomists affirm, That there is a *Capsula* near the Heart, called the *Pericardium*, which hath Water in it, of continual Use to cool the Heart; and that the coming out of Water here with the Blood, was a Testimony of the Wounding his very Heart.

(b) *Arimathea*, is the Place where *Samuel* was born and bred up, called by the Hebrews, *Ramathaim Sophim*, in Greek, *Armathaim*.

(i) Counsellor. He was either of the *Sanhedrin*, or one of the *Decuriones*, or Commissioners for managing the Affairs of the Province: Or perhaps he was both. Because St. Luke 23. 51. says, he consented not to the Council and Deed of them.

(k) Wound. The Clothes which St. John 19. 40. mentions, in which our Saviour was wrapped, were Swaths proper for the Dead. In relation to which it is, that in *Acts* 5. 6. they are said to wind up *Ananias* when he was dead.

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# ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXVII.<sup>30</sup>

The chief Priests & Pharisees came together unto Pilate.



## ST MATTHEW 27. Verse 63.<sup>197</sup>

*Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.*

T O R M D

(1) A  
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“vent the People’s being further seduced, be pleased  
 “to appoint a Guard to attend the Sepulchre until  
 “the third Day be pass’d, lest his Disciples, who  
 “without doubt remember his Words, come and  
 “clandestinely remove his Body in the Night, and  
 “then persuade the People that he is risen from the  
 “Dead; which, if it should happen, (the People too  
 “firmly believing in him already) would prove a  
 “more dangerous Seducement, than any into which  
 “they have yet fallen.” *Pilate* resenting their former  
 Importunity in pressing him to deliver the innocent  
*Jesus* to their Rage, answers them very abruptly,  
 “You have a Guard at your Service, be gone, and  
 “secure it as you please.” Whereupon they fix’d a  
 Seal upon the Grave-Stone, that they might discern  
 if it were opened, and rolled a great Stone to the En-  
 trance of the Sepulchre, placing a Guard to watch  
 and keep it.

Our Blessed Lord having told his Disciples that af-  
 ter three Days he would rise again, in Pity to them,  
 that his Absence might be the less afflicting, short-  
 ned the Time as much as possible, yet so as that he  
 might verify his own Prediction. He rises early in  
 the Morning the first Day of the Week. But the  
 Night after the Sabbath, towards the next Morning,  
*Mary Magdalen*, and *Mary* the Mother of *James* and  
*Salome*, came to the Sepulchre, with sweet Spices, that  
 they might (1) again imbalm the Holy Body. And  
 as they passed along they perceived there had been a  
 great Concussion of the Earth, and coming near the  
 Sepulchre they began to consider how they should get  
 the great Stone removed from the Entrance of it: but  
 that Difficulty soon vanish’d, for as they approach’d  
 still nearer they saw the Stone rolled away, and an  
 Angel whom they supposed to be the Cause of it, sit-  
 ting on it; of so divine an Aspect, and splendid Ap-  
 pearance, that they were frighted. But the Angel,

(1) *Again imbalm.* The Rites of last forty Days, as we may see *Gen.*  
*50. v. 3.*



who knew their Errand, bids them not be afraid, for the Lord was risen and gone before them into *Galilee*, where he appointed his Disciples to meet him. And to confirm the Truth of this, he shews them the empty Grave where Jesus was laid, and the (m) Napkins and Sear-cloths folded up and laid by. These happy Women, who had the Honour of being the most early Witnesses of these blessed Occurrences, transported with Fear and Joy, hasten to acquaint the Disciples with what they had seen and heard. But it fared quite otherwise with the Guard that the Jews had set to watch the Body of the Blessed Jesus; for when the Guardian-Angels of the Sepulchre descended, they so affrighted the Watch which *Pilate* and the Priests had appointed, that they were ready to die with Fear and Astonishment.

The Women coming to the Apostles, and acquainting them that the Body of Jesus was not in the Sepulchre; and that they had seen an Angel, who told them he was risen, were so far from being credited by the Apostles, that they look'd upon all they said as idle Tales, and Fits of Deliriousness. But at last Curiosity mov'd *Peter* and *John* to see whether Things were as they had represented or not; and coming to the Sepulchre, they looked into it, and not finding the Body there, they returned to their own Home.

By this Time *Mary Magdalen* was come back, who being still in concern for the Body of Jesus, stood weeping without at the Sepulchre; where stooping to look into it, she saw two Angels in white, sitting one at the Head, the other at the Foot of the Grave. The Angels ask'd the Cause of her Grief: She told them, for the Loss of the Lord's Body. And at that instant Jesus appear'd, and stood behind her; and asking her the same Question, she, supposing him to be the Gardiner, says, *Sir, if you have removed him, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away*. Then Jesus, to put her out of doubt, calls her by her

(m) Napkins, See *John* 20. 5, &c, *Mat.* 28. 5, 6, &c.

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**ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXVIII.**  
JESUS meeteth the women coming from y<sup>e</sup> Sepulchre.



**ST MATTHEW 28 Verse 10.**<sup>198.</sup>

*Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid, go  
tell my brethren that they go into Galilee,  
and there shall they see me.*

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Name. She knew the charming Accent of his Voice, and with an Ecstasy of Joy and Wonder, was ready to crush his Feet with her eager Imbraces; but he commanded her not to (n) touch him, for it was not a Time for him to converse as he was formerly wont to do, but was going to prepare a Place in Heaven, where they should all enjoy him hereafter. *Mary* tells these Things to the eleven Apostles, but they give no Credit to what she said; taking it to be the Effect of Fancy.

But whilst these Things happened, the Guards, who were by the Priests and Pharisees appointed to watch the Sepulchre, having recovered a little from their Fright, return to the City, and give an Account to the Chief Priests of all that was done. Who finding the Holy Jesus's Words so literally prov'd true, and which they in Mockery but a few Days before made use of to the Governor, in Haste and Fear assemble the *Sanhedrin*; and by a new Crime resolving to make their Iniquity safe and unquestionable, by Decree of Council appoint a (o) large Sum of Money to be given to the Soldiers, sufficient to bribe them all to say, *That his Disciples came by Night, and stole him away whilst we slept.* And if the Governor should happen to hear of it, they would skreen them from his Displeasure. Accordingly these mercenary Wretches take the Money, and do as they were bid; and the *Jews* believed this Story to be true.

Our Blessed Lord appeared next to *Simon Peter*; and though he and *St. John* ran both together to the Sepulchre, and *St. John* out-ran *St. Peter*, and though *St. Peter* had denied and forsworn his Lord, and *St. John* never did, but followed him to his Passion and Death; yet *Peter* had the Favour of seeing him first: divine Mercy indulging to Penitents Eminencies and Privileges sometimes beyond the temporal Graces of the Just and Innocent, because they are supposed to

(n) Touch him. See *John* 20. 17.

(o) Large Sum. See *Mat.* 28. 12.

need Defensatives against the remaining inherent Evils even of repented Sins, and their Aptness to relapse.

Towards the declining of the Day of his Resurrection, two of his Disciples going towards *Emmaus*, sad, and discoursing of the late Occurrences, Jesus puts himself into their Company; and seeing them sad, he asked them what mournful Communication it was that had passed between them? Their Hearts were so full of Grief, that they were not over-curious in examining this new Companion; and God had so disposed it, that they could not as yet discern it to be Jesus: And therefore one of them, whose Name was (p) *Cleophas*, in Answer to Jesus's Question, says, Thou art a Stranger indeed, who art ignorant of the late Transactions at *Jerusalem*, so notoriously known and talk'd of by all Men. Jesus pretending Ignorance to hear what they would say, asks them, what Things? They tell him, concerning Jesus of *Nazareth*, a Prophet mighty in Deed and in Word, and approved by God and Man: Who was deliver'd by the Priests and Rulers to the *Roman* Governour to be crucified. "We, said he, were in great Hope that he had been the *Messias* so long expected by us. And this being the third Day since his Crucifixion, some Women that were Followers of him together with us, and that were this Morning at the Monument, came and told us wonderful Things; how that they found not his Body there, but met with Angels, that told them he was risen from the Dead: and several of his Disciples went to the Place, and found it true as they had said, but saw not Jesus." Then the Lord (q) discoursed to them of the Necessity of the Death and Resurrection of the *Messias*, and taught

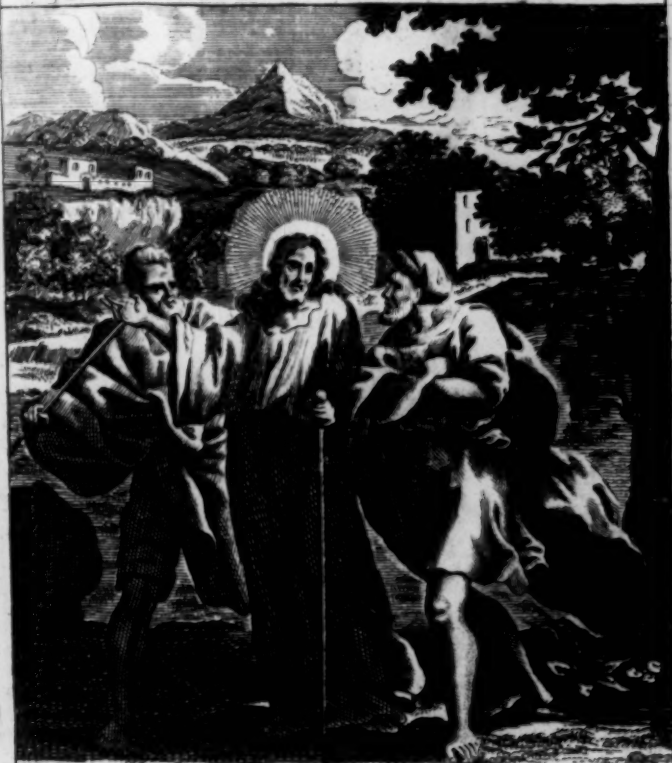
(p) *Cleophas*. This *Cleophas* was the Brother of *Joseph*, the Husband of the Virgin *Mary*, and so the reputed Uncle of Christ; whose Son *Simeon*, saith *Eusebius*, l. 3. c. 10. by the joint Consent of the Apostles then living was

made Bishop of *Jerusalem*, after *James*, as being nearest of Kin to our Saviour.

(q) Discoursed. See *Luke* 24. &c.



ST LUKE CHAP. XXIV. JESUS<sup>41</sup>  
interprets the scripture to the Disciples at Emmaus.



ST LUKE 24. Verse 13. 200.

*And behold, two of them went that same  
day to a village called Emmaus, which was  
from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs*

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them not to take any Estimate of the Counsels and Decrees of God from the Designs and Propositions of Man: For God by Ways contrary to humane Judgment, brings to pass the Purposes of his eternal Providence: The Glories of Christ were not made pompous by humane Circumstances; his Kingdom was spiritual; he was to enter into Felicities through the Gates of Death; he refused to do Miracles before Herod, yet did them before the People; he confuted his Accusers by Silence, and did not descend from the Cross, when they offer'd to believe in him if he would, but left them to be convinced by greater Arguments of his Power, the miraculous Circumstances of his Death, and the Glories of his Resurrection. Then beginning from *Moses* and the Prophets, he explained all passages of the Scriptures relating to himself: But drawing near the Village where they intended to spend that Night, Jesus seem'd as if he had further to go, and was taking leave of them; but they unwilling to lose his good Conversation, (r) obliged him all they could to go with them, urging the approaching Night, and the Incommodiousness of late Travelling. The Holy Jesus yields to their Importu-

(r) *Obliged.* Frequent Experience evidently demonstrate what Injury an undue Translation of one Word can produce. The Word which our Translators use for *Parebasanto*, they construe as if it were *compell'd*, indeed is literal, but harsh; for though the Greek Word implies Force, yet it is very improbable, especially if we consider the Constraint, that these two Disciples offer'd a Force or Violence to Jesus to make him go with them; for this Constraint is only in saying (no doubt with Earnestness) *Abide with us*, Luke 24. 49. St. *Augustin*, in a Word of the like kind, mistakenly justifies his rigorous Proceedings against the *Doctores*, from the Parable of the Feast, Luke 14. 23. which most Translators render, *Compel them to come*; though it is never the Custom to force any

violently to come to a Feast, but by the most civil and obliging Invitations. Besides, in a parabolical Way of Speaking, Things signifying have a proper, but Things signified a figurative Meaning. Therefore since these Words *Constraining* and *Compelling* do in themselves literally signify something of Violence and Severity, it were better to soften them in a Translation, and to render them thus, *Obliged them to come in*, *They obliged him to abide with them*, than to leave a Pretence to those who transgress the Rules of Moderation, as St. *Augustin* always did, when he thought he had any Warrant from Scripture for so doing. This is the Opinion of the most learned Commentators, as any one may see that will consult *Luc. Burg. Maldonat. Grotius*, and others.

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nity, and goes with them to (s) *Emmaus*; where a Repast being immediately provided, and Jesus still keeping up his Magisterial Authority, after the Manner of Master of the Family, blessed the Meat, and carved and distributed it to them; which occasion'd their first Suspicion that it was Christ: for presently they discern'd that it was he; but immediately he disappeared. This strange and unexpected Manifestation of Christ struck the two Disciples with Fear and Amazement; who, as soon as their Surprise would give them leave, began to interrogate one another about their Stupidity in not sooner discerning their Lord and Master, with whom before they had so intimately conversed; and taxing each other with Insensibility of his divine Presence, *Was there not (said the ) an unusual Warmth of Affection and Passion all the while that he talked with us by the Way, and expounded the Scriptures to us?*

Being thus convinc'd of his Resurrection by ocular Demonstration, they impatiently return to *Jerusalem* to communicate this good News to the Apostles, and those that associated with them; but when they had told them these joyful Occurrences, all they said seem'd a (r) fabulous Narrative; and though they were particular in the Description of every the most minute Passage, they gain'd no Credit with them. (v) However whilst they discoursed about the Apparition of Jesus at *Emmaus*, he himself, by a second Appearance confirms the Report of the two Disciples, and standing in the midst of them, salutes them with the Benediction of Peace. The whole Company, especially the unbelieving Apostles, whether touch'd with the Guilt of their Infidelity, or affected with the common

(s) *Emmaus*. It is supposed by *Bede* and others, that *Cleophas* or his Companion had a House at *Emmaus*; which by their importunate pressing Jesus to go with them, seems probable; for they could not propose to entertain him so commodiously or hospi-

tably in an Inn, as in their own Dwelling-house.

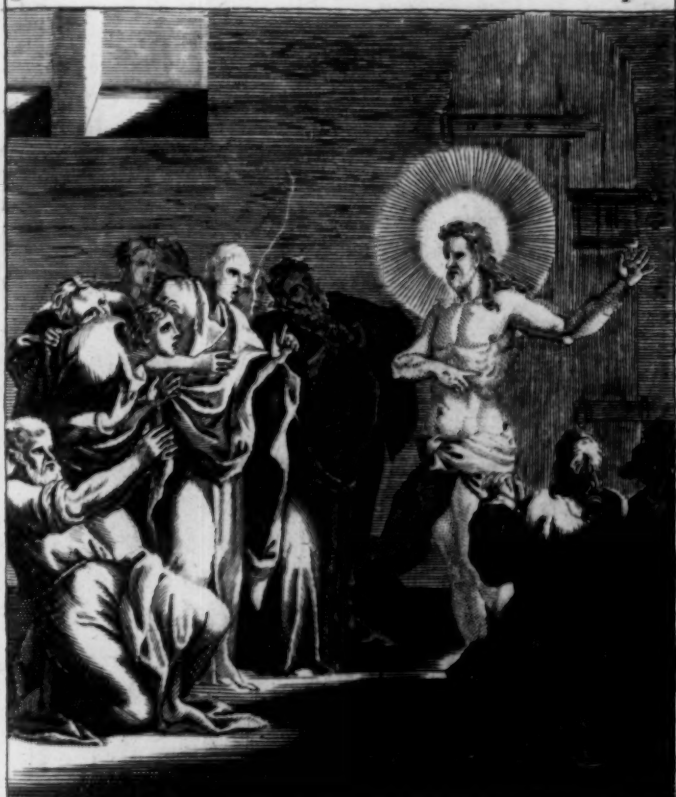
(r) *Fabulous Narrative*. See *Mat.* 16. 11, 13.

(v) See *Luke* 24. 36, 37, &c. *John* 20. 19. *Mark* 16. 14.

# ST JOHN CHAP. XX.

42

JESUS stood in the midst, & said Peace be unto you



ST JOHN 20. Verse 20. 202.

*And when he had so said he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw y<sup>e</sup> Lord.*



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Apprehension of seeing a Spirit, were very much frightened. But the tender-hearted Saviour of the World soon disperses their Fear: *Why (says he) do you doubt or suspect me to be a Spirit? Behold my wounded Hands and Feet: It is very I, Body and Soul together.* Then he gave them leave to feel the Prints of the Nails in his Hands and Feet. But the greater and more transporting their Joy was, the less confident they were of the Truth of it; and therefore to confirm them in the certain Belief of what he said, he called for some Meat, and they bringing him some broil'd Fish, and a Piece of an Honey-Comb, he did eat before them. Then putting them upon recollecting the former Hints and Instructions he had given them, saying, *What you now see I did foretel, when I was among you, before my Crucifixion, and is agreeable to all the several Images and Predictions of me in all the Books of God, which were of necessity to be fulfilled.* Then, by the special Operation of the Spirit, he gave them the Power of understanding the Scriptures, especially in those Things which related to the Messias: The Sum of all which he declared to be this; That the Messias was thus to be put to Death, and rise again, and that his Apostles, the Witnesses thereof, should after his Resurrection preach Repentance, and upon that Remission of Sins, to *Jerusalem* and through all *Judea* first, and then to all the Nations of the World. To which End he promised speedily to send them the Holy Spirit (promised by God the Father) to descend from Heaven upon every one of them, and so to install them to succeed in his Office, till which time he commanded them all to stay, and not to stir out of *Jerusalem*.

At this Appearance of our Blessed Lord, all the Apostles, but *Thomas*, were present: Who, as soon as they saw him, recounted what they had seen and heard concerning Jesus's Resurrection; which *Thomas* is so far from believing, that he resolves against it, declaring, that unless he might by ocular Demonstration be convinced by putting his Finger into the Holes in his

his Hands and Side, he would not believe a Word of what they said. About a Week after the Disciples were met again at the Service of God, and *Thomas* was with them; and the Doors being shut, to prevent any Disturbance from the *Jews*, who were very jealous of them, *Jesus* came and stood in the midst of them, ushering himself in among them with the Blessing of Peace. And being apprized of *Thomas's* Infidelity, he addresses himself immediately to him, bidding him satisfy his Incredulity by the Philosophy of his Senses. *Thomas* being convinced that it was *Jesus*, and by feeling finding him to be Flesh and Blood, acknowledges him to be his Lord and Master, the omnipotent God of Heaven. The former Diffidence and late Belief of *Thomas*, our compassionate Lord corrects with a gentle Reprehension: "*Thomas*, says he, thou owest thy Conviction to thy Senses, not to thy Faith, which would have been much more excellent, and more eminently rewardable, if without such demonstrative Evidence thou hadst believed: What Reward is there due to their Faith, who have not had such evident Proof as thou hast, and yet have believed?"

After this, the Disciples going into *Galilee*, as they had been commanded, at the Sea of *Tiberias* he again surprizes them on this Manner. *Simon Peter*, with six other of the Apostles, went a fishing in the Lake or Sea of *Tiberias*, where they labour'd all Night, and caught nothing. Towards the Morning *Jesus* appeared to them, and bad them cast the Net on the right Side of the Ship; which they did, and inclosed an hundred fifty three great Fishes. The favourite Disciple *John* seeing the prodigious Draught of Fishes, concludes it a Miracle; and speaking to *Peter* says, Assuredly it is the Lord hath done this. When *Peter* heard it was *Jesus*, being in Haste, he only put on his upper Garment (for he was half (w) naked, having

(w) Naked. Translators ought to observe the Custom and Notions of the Ancients, and reduce the Ways of speaking, that allude to them, to Expressions which

**ST JOHN CHAP. XXI.** <sup>203</sup>  
 The disciples take a great draught of fishes.



**ST JOHN 21. Verse 6.** <sup>204.</sup>  
*They cast therefore, and now they  
 were not able to draw it for the mul-  
 titude of fishes.*

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ing only his inner Garment upon him) and went into the Lake to go to him. The rest of the Apostles did not so; but being not far from Land, where Jesus was, went to him by Boat, dragging the Net full of Fishes along with them; and, which added to this marvellous Draught of Fishes, the Nets did not break.

When they were come to Land, they were surprised with another Miracle greater than the former; for there they see a Fire of Coals, with Fish on it, and Bread, all ready created and produced out of nothing by Jesus. Then he commandeth them to come and dine with him, which none of them dispute, (x) knowing him to be their Lord. And he taking Fish and Bread did eat before them, to signify to them the reality of his Resurrection. This was the (y) third Time of Christ's appearing to his Disciples, after he rose from the Dead.

After Dinner, Jesus taking care for those Sheep that he knew would be scatter'd over the Face of the earth, says to *Peter*; "Is thy Love so great to me as thou didst seem to affirm, when thou saidst, (z) though all men should forsake me, thou wouldst not? Is thy Love surpassing the Love of all other my Disciples? Or is thy Love agreeable to this thy Expression of it, in casting thy self into the Sea to come to me? *Peter* answer'd, Lord, thou that knowest all Things, knowest that I love thee. Then

are plain and decent in the Language into which they translate. This is therefore of *St. John* cannot be a literal Version; for what is called naked signifies only but to have a part of the Body uncover'd, or only to be without a Gown or upper Garment, according to the Custom of the Eastern People, and of the *Romans*, who, when they went abroad, or made any publick appearance, wore a long upper Garment called in *Latin*, *Toga*. And as *Peter*, though it was customary for Fishermen in their Boats to go naked to the Waste, *St. John* the Evangelist could not more expressly say, that

he was not altogether naked, than by observing, that he took his *Fisher's Coat*, or *upper Garment*; for so the Word *Fisher's Coat* ought to be rendered. This Passage then (*for he was naked*) should be translated thus; *he was almost naked, or without his upper Garment.*

(x) *Knowing.* See *John* 21. 12.

(y) *Third Time.* Reckoning all the Times, this was the sixth, and the fourth that he appeared to his Disciples; but yet it is but the third that he appeared to all or most of them together.

(z) See *Mat.* 26. 23.

“ said

“ said Jesus, express thy Love in thy Care of the  
 “ Flock committed to thee.” Jesus, to exemplify to  
 him how he was to use the Power of the (a) Keys pro-  
 mised to him, calls to him three Times (in proportion to his threefold Denial of him) to confess Christ  
 and his Love to him. This was a considerable and  
 weighty Employment, upon which Jesus was willing  
 to spend all his Indearments and Stock of Affections  
 that *Peter* owed him, even upon the Care of his little  
 Flock: And after the intrusting this Charge to him,  
 he gives him a short Hint of the sharp but honourable  
 Martyrdom he should suffer in the following Metaphor:  
 “ In the former Part of thy Life thou hast been  
 “ free to do what even now thou didst, and to live  
 “ at thine own Pleasure; but Age shall bring Pre-  
 “ sures and Afflictions on thee, and thou shalt be  
 “ bound as Captives, when they yield to a superior  
 “ Force, and carried to the Cross, the Place of Exe-  
 “ cution.” This (b) Speech of Christ was a figurative  
 Expression, that Crucifixion was the kind of Death  
 by which he should confess Christ. And to this he  
 added these Words, *Follow me*; that is, thou shalt fol-  
 low me in Sufferings, as thou didst before in Dis-  
 cipline.

*Peter* hearing his Lord foretel the State of the re-  
 maining Part of his own Life, could not forbear be-  
 sying himself about the temporal Accidents of other  
 Men; for happening to cast his Eye on *John* the be-  
 loved Disciple, he asks Jesus, what his Fate would be.  
 Jesus checking his Curiosity, answers his Question with  
 some Sharpness of Reprehension, but no Satisfaction.  
 “ If I will, that he carry (c) till I come, what is the

(a) Keys. See *Mat.* 16.

(b) Speech. See *John* 21. 19.

(c) Till I come. By this coming of  
 Jesus was meant that famous Execution  
 upon the *Jews* by the *Romans*. This  
 very Execution *St. John* did survive;  
*St. Peter*, of whom our blessed Lord  
 prophesies in *John* 21. v. 18. being  
 put to death in *Nero's* Time; but *St.*  
*John* continued not only to *Titus's*

Time, but to *Trajan's* Reign, about  
 hundred Years after Christ's Birth.  
 So thirty Years after this Coming  
 Christ was past. And by what  
*neus* adds, The *Elders* who (see  
*John* only. but the other *Apostles*  
 it is probable, that some others of  
*Apostles* also lived to that Time  
*Trajan*.

to thee? I told you of some that should escape the Fury of the evil Times approaching, and continue to the Time that I shall come in Judgment against *Jerusalem*, and destroy it by the *Romans*: And what harm is it to thee; and how art thou concern'd to know, if *John* be one of these? Thou art likely to follow me to the Cross, and the chearful doing of that becomes thee better than this Curiosity." Upon this, the rest of the Disciples fancied *John* should not die. But they were mistaken; for the Intimation was expounded and verified by *St. John's* surviving the Destruction of *Jerusalem*: for after the Attempts of Persecutors, and the miraculous Escape of prepared Torments, he died a natural Death in a good old age.

And now was the last and most publick Manifestation of Jesus at hand; for he having (d) before appointed a solemn Meeting or Rendezvous of all the Brethren, that could be collected from the Dispersion, at Mount (e) *Olivet*, punctually meets them according to the Appointment. And now all Things that had been spoken in the Scriptures concerning his Life, Death, and Resurrection, having been exactly compleated, being about to take his solemn and last leave of them in Person here, and to give them their Commission by which they were after his Ascension to be sent, he tells them he is invested with the full Power of Heaven and Earth, to dispose all Things concerning the Church as he pleased. He bids them therefore to go into all Parts, and teach all Nations, preaching the Gospel to every Creature, and (f) baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: "He that believeth, says he, and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believeth not

(d) Before. See *Mat.* 26. 16.  
(e) *Olivet*. Here it is most probable that our Saviour was seen of more than five hundred Brethren, as *St. Paul* writes, *1 Cor.* 15. 16. which is further confirm'd by *St. Mat.* 28. 17. who says, that among them that were pre-

sent some doubted; which must be meant of others besides the Apostles, for they had all been before convinced of the Resurrection of the Lord.

(f) *Baptizing*. See *Mat.* 28. 19. *Mark* 16. 16.

"shall

" shall be damn'd : Intimating, that he who receiveth the Gospel preach'd by you, and thereupon becomes a Profelyte or Disciple of Christ, and desires and receives Baptism, the Seal of the new Covenant, shall for all his former Sins, sincerely repented of and forsaken, receive plenary Pardon and upon Perseverance of new Life, eternal Bliss ; but he that stands out obstinately and impenitently shall be damned. And, whomsoever ye shall baptize, take care to (b) teach them strict Obedience to all the Commands which I have deliver'd to you. And though I shall now shortly part with you yet by sending the Spirit upon you, to lead you to all Truths, and by my perpetual Presence and Assistance, and that Authority that I receiv'd from my Father, and now (i) commit unto you, I will continue with you and your Successors unto the End of the World."

Our Blessed Lord having given his Disciples Assurance of his Power and Godhead, tells them, Confirmation of the Efficacy of the Commission, that these Signs should further evince it to them that believ'd. " In my Name, says he, they shall be enabled to do Miracles, cast out Devils, speak strange Languages, handle venomous Creatures, be secure against poisonous Draughts, (for to those Dangers

(g) *Covenant.* When our Blessed Lord had confirm'd the Faith of the Church, and appointed an Ecclesiastick Ministry, he instituted the Holy Sacrament of Baptism ; which he ordain'd as a solemn Initiation and mysterious Profession of the Faith upon which the Church is built ; making it a solemn Publication of our Profession, the Rite of Stipulation or Covenanting with our Lord, and Solemnity of the Evangelical Pacton ; in which we undertake to be Disciples of the Holy Jesus, that is, to believe his Doctrine, to fear his Threatnings, to rely upon his Promises, and to obey his Commandments all the Days of our Life. Nor does he only perform what he had promised ; but

for our future Establishment and Comfort promises more. He takes off the Guilt of our preceding Life, purging our Souls, and making them clean as in the Day of Innocence, Acts 22. 26. promising withal, that we will remain in the State in which he puts us by Baptism, he will continually assist us with his Spirit, 28. 20. prevent and attend us with Grace, and keep our Souls in safe joyful Custody till the great Day of the Lord, when he will raise our Bodies and reunite them to our Souls, beautify both in his Kingdom.

(h) *Teach.* See Mat. 28. 20.  
 (i) *Commit.* See John 20. 21.



“ he knew they should be expos’d ) and by Impositi-  
“ on of Hands heal the Sick.” But for their better  
Direction in receiving this Power of the Spirit to in-  
able them to do all these Things, he gave them Or-  
der after this manner: “ (k) Go not suddenly from  
“ *Jerusalem*, but there expect a-while the Completi-  
“ on of that Promise which I gave you from the Fa-  
“ ther in these Words, when I told you, that as *John*  
baptized his Disciples with Water, so you should  
have to that an Addition of the Holy Ghost, co-  
ming down upon you within a-while ; till which  
Time you are to stay at *Jerusalem*, and not to take  
upon you the Business of Preaching in other Pla-  
ces.” This Promise of Power the Holy Jesus a-  
gain confirms to them in his Answer to their Questi-  
on, when they ask’d him ; “ Whether or no he meant  
presently to repair and settle the Kingdom on his  
Followers, which had been (l) prophesied of, and  
to do what was expected from the Messias ? (m) It  
is not for you, says he, to know the Secrets which  
God will keep to himself ; and such is the Time  
and Moment of Christ’s entering on his Kingdom.  
Only this I shall tell you, that the Holy Ghost shall  
shortly descend on you, and give you a formal Com-  
mission for the Execution of your Office : Then  
shall you testify the Truth of what I have done and  
said ; shall proclaim and divulge it first in *Jerusa-*  
*lem*, then in all *Judea* and *Samaria* ; and after the  
*Jews* shall have rejected the Gospel, ye shall depart  
and preach it to the Heathen World, to the utter-  
most Parts of the Earth.” After this, he led them  
(n) *Bethany*, where in a formal and most solemn  
anner he takes his Leave of them, and lifting up  
his Hands he bless’d them. Thus the Holy Jesus,  
at his Appearance to the Apostles after his Re-  
urrection saluted them with the Benediction of Peace,  
his Departure from them leaveth them Peace for a

(k) Go. See *Acts* 1. 4, &c.

(l) Prophesied. See *Dan.* 7. 18.

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(m) It is not, &c. See *Acts* 1. 7, 8, &c.

(n) *Bethany*. See *Luke* 24. 50.



Legacy. And whilst he was dispensing this Blessing among them, the (o) Angels came and receiv'd him, and in their sight carried him up into Heaven, where he sits at the right Hand of God blessed for ever.

(o) *Angels.* The Text says, *Acts 1. 9. He was taken up, and a Cloud receiv'd him out of their Sight.* But it is to be consider'd, that the Appearance of Angels is ordinarily described by a Cloud, and so here the Clouds receiving him, signifies the Angels recei-

ving him. Thus when *Exod. 25. 22.* it is said of the Covering of the Ark, *There will I meet thee, and commune with thee from betwixt the two Cherubims, &c.* it is in *Levit. 16. 2. I will appear in the Cloud upon that Propitiatory, or Covering of the Ark.*

THE  
P R O E M  
TO THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
*Acts of the Holy <sup>(a)</sup> Apostles.*

**T**HIS History is not enlarg'd to the Travels and Acts of all the Apostles, but confined chiefly to the most remarkable Passages of two, *viz.* of St. Peter and St. Paul; and therefore doth not pretend to give a full Relation of the Plantation of Christianity in all Parts, whither therest of the Apostles must be presumed to have

(a) *Apostles.* The Word *Apostle* in general signifies Messenger or sent; in which Sense the *Jews* are said to have Apostles, whom they deputed to act as their Proxies or Deputies, whence the Jewish Proverb, *Every Man's Apostle as himself*; that is, is his Vicar or Proxy, and what he doth is as valid as the Person had done it himself. And in this Sense the Twelve after Christ's departure had others, whom they sent

on other Parts of their Charge, and whom they called their Apostles. But here in an Evangelical Sense the Word *Apostle* signifies that Office whereunto the Twelve were set apart by Christ immediately, as also that of St. Paul and Barnabas, sent by the special Appointment of the Holy Ghost, *Acts* 13. 2. It belonged also to some others after, that received the like Commission from the Twelve, or St. Paul.

gone out, as to their respective Provinces ; but only affords us an Essay of what was done in *Judea* and *Samarina*, among the *Jews* remaining there, and in other Cities of *Syria*, *Asia*, &c. among the *Jews* in their Dispersions. It likewise gives us a Taste only of the revealing the Gospel to the Gentiles ; first, to some single Families, as that of *Cornelius* ; and, after the *Jews* had given Evidence of their obstinate Resolutions of opposing them, especially for their preaching to the Gentiles, then to whole Cities and Countries ; professedly departing to the Gentiles, as those among whom they were assured of better Success than they had found among the *Jews*.

As to the Story of *St. Peter's* Actions or Travels, the Relations here given are very few ; and they proceed no further than to his Deliverance from *Herod's* imprisoning him, and the Death of that Persecutor, which happen'd in the Year of Christ XLIV. After which he is known to have liv'd four and twenty Years, and certainly was not an unprofitable Steward of that Talent with which God in all that Time had intrusted him.

The Passages of *St. Paul's* Travels are also but summarily and shortly set down, except in that Part, wherein *St. Luke*, the Writer of this Story, was present with him : And accordingly as from the Conversion of *St. Paul*, which was *Anno Chr.* 34, there is very little said of him, till his Coming to *Iconium*, which was twelve Years after, so the Story proceeds no further than his first Coming to *Rome*, *Anno Chr.* 58. After which he liv'd ten Years, and having preach'd the Gospel in *Spain* and other Parts of the West, at last came to *Rome* again, and suffer'd Martyrdom there.

*St. Luke* undoubtedly wrote his History of the Apostolick Acts at *Rome*, at the End of *St. Paul's* two Years Imprisonment there, with which he concluded his Story. He is more particular in his Account of *St. Paul*, than of any other of the Apostles he mentions ;

ons; for, besides St. *Paul's* extraordinary and signal Activity in the Cause of Christ, which mark'd him out for doing and suffering much, St. *Luke* was his constant Attendant, an Eye-witness of the whole Carriage of his Life, and privy to his most intimate Transactions, and therefore capable of giving a more full and satisfactory Relation of them; since no Evidence or Testimony in Matters of Fact can be more rational and convincing than his, who reports nothing but what he had seen and heard. Among other Things, he gives a particular Account of those great Miracles which the Apostles did for the Confirmation of their Doctrine. In fine, both in his Gospel and in his Apostolick Acts, his Way and Manner of writing is exact and accurate, his Style polite and elegant, sublime and noble, yet perspicuous and easy; flowing with an easy and natural Grace and Sweetness, admirably accommodated to an historical Design, and all along express'd in a Vein of purer and more refined Language, than is to be found in the other Writers of the Holy Story. But this indeed was in a great measure owing to his Education at *Antioch*, (at that time most famous for Oratory and Eloquence) whence he could not fail of carrying a great Share of the native Genius of the Place. To give the Sum of his Character in short, as a Historian, he was faithful in his Relations, and elegant in his Writings; as a Minister of God, careful and diligent for the good of Souls intrusted to him; as a Christian, devout and pious; and who crown'd all the rest with laying down his Life for the Testimony of that Gospel, which he had both preached and published to the World.



THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
*Acts of the Holy Apostles.*

BOOK VII.

**T**HE Blessed Saviour of the World having fulfilled all Things prophesied of his Mission here on Earth; and having in a most solemn manner taken leave of his Disciples, visibly retires before their Eyes to Eternal Rest in his Father's Bosom. With Hearts full of Grief and Admiration they deplore the Loss of the Presence of their dear-lov'd Lord; and with longing Eyes pay their last Attendance till he disappear'd. But whilst they thus fondly look'd towards the Place where their Lord was gone, his tender Care immediately supplied his Absence, dispatching two of his Celestial Retinue with a Message of Consolation. Behold two Angels adorned with the Glories of Heaven, appear'd to them, with this comfortable Assurance, "Forbear, O Galileans, your further Admiration Your Gracious Lord  
" whom



“whom even now ye beheld ascending to Heaven,  
“shall one Day come to judge the World, in as glo-  
“rious a manner as he now departed from you. He  
“hath not absolutely left you, but is gone to take  
“Possession of that Kingdom which he will exercise  
“to the End of the World.”

Highly satisfied with this Comfort and Confirmation of their Hopes, the glad Disciples return from Mount *Olivet* to *Jerusalem*; where the eleven Apostles with the Women that used to attend Christ repair to the (a) Temple, spending their Time in a constant Performance of Devotions. And at a certain time, when there was a large Company, to the Number of an hundred and twenty, met together for the publick Service of God, *Peter* addressed himself to the Apostles in the following Speech; “Ye know, Brethren, what the Royal (b) Prophet *David* foretold concerning *Judas*, that betrayed our Lord, which being from the Spirit of God, it was of Necessity to be compleated, and has accordingly been punctually accomplish’d in *Judas*, who was of our Society, a fellow-Disciple, and an Apostle in Designation as truly as any of us. But for a Sum of Money he betray’d his Master to his Enemies; after which being troubled for what he had done, he return’d the Money to the Priest, (who durst not put it into the Treasury, but bought a Field to bury Strangers in;) and the Sense of this odious Fact casting him into a deep Melancholy, he fell forward on his Face upon the Ground in a fit of Suffocation, and his Belly bursting his Intrails came out. This Fact, and the Fate of *Judas*, was notoriously known to all that dwelt at *Jerusalem*, and thereupon the Field that was bought with that Money was vulgarly known by the Name of the *Field of Blood*. To him therefore

(a) Temple. The Apostles met to perform their Devotions in an upper Room of the Temple, *Acts* 1. 13. For the Temple had many Chambers or Upper Rooms in its Circuit, which served

not only for the Use of the Priests, and for the keeping of holy Things, but some of them stood open for religious Meetings.

(b) *Psalms* 41. 9.

“ belongs that which is by the Holy (c) *Psalmist* said,  
 “ not by way of Execration, but of Prediction, That  
 “ as he should come to a desperate miserable End, for  
 “ that Office which Christ design’d him with the  
 “ rest of the Twelve should be bestowed on another.  
 “ It is then our Duty, according to this Prophecy, to  
 “ make choice of some one of these Persons that are  
 “ present, and who have continued with us ever since  
 “ our Lord undertook the Charge and Care of us,  
 “ till his Assumption to Heaven, that he may succeed  
 “ *Judas* in the Apostolate.” The whole Assembly  
 were pleased with this Motion, and unanimously pro-  
 posed two Candidates, leaving it to the Lots to de-  
 cide which of them it should be. The Persons nomi-  
 nated were *Joseph* called *Barsabas*, and surnamed *Jus-  
 tus*, and *Matthias*. Then the Apostles solemnly invo-  
 ked the Direction of God on this Occasion in this  
 Prayer: “ O Lord, that knowest the Secrets of all  
 “ Hearts, be pleased to direct the Lot to him, whom  
 “ of these two thou hast chosen, that he may take  
 “ Possession of this Ministry and Apostleship, (from  
 “ which (d) *Judas* by Transgression fell) and so be  
 “ take himself to the Discharge of it.” The Lot  
 being drawn, *Matthias* was chosen, and was accord-  
 ingly receiv’d to make up the Number of the twelve  
 Apostles.

The Vacancy in the Holy College being filled up  
 with this new Apostle, they were all met together on  
 the Day of *Pentecost* at the Service of God in their ac-  
 customed Place: Where, whilst they were devoutly

(c) *Psalm* 69. 25. & 109. 8.

(d) *Judas*. Some Divines make  
 fine Reflections on the Modesty and Cha-  
 rity of the Apostles, that would not say  
 that *Judas* was damned; but that he  
 went to his Place, without daring to  
 decide the matter. Others again think  
 that this Expression denotes that *Judas*  
 must have a particular Place of Dam-  
 nation, because of the Heinousness of  
 his Crime. But if we consider the Ori-  
 ginal, we shall find that the Words do  
 not regard *Judas*, but *Matthias*: For

the Words in *Acts* 1. 25. From which  
*Judas* by Transgression fell, are prop-  
 ly parenthes’d, and have no relation  
 to the following Words, That he may  
 go to his own Place, these belonging  
 entirely to *Matthias*, or the Person that  
 should be chosen; which plainly denotes  
 and expresses his going to take Possession  
 of his Place or Office, which *Judas*  
 his Treachery had forfeited; and not  
 of *Judas*’s going to his Place of Pun-  
 ishment.

employ’d

employed, suddenly they heard a great Noise come down from Heaven like that of a boisterous stormy Wind, which filled the Room where they were assembled: So great was the Efficacy of the Spirit of God now descending! Then there appeared something like flaming Fire, lighting on every one of them, and which dividing asunder became the Resemblance of cloven Tongues. Upon this they were all inspired with the Holy Ghost, speaking strange Languages which they never before had learn'd.

At the Feast of *Pentecost* there were at *Jerusalem* many Jews and Proselytes who came from several Nations of all Quarters of the World to worship the true God at *Jerusalem*. When these therefore heard the Report of this Miracle, (for to the Natives of *Jerusalem* and *Judea* Miracles were no strange Things) they were very much astonished, because, they being of several Nations, every one of them heard the Apostles speaking the Language of their Country. Their Curiosity invites them to an Inquiry after the Reason of this Transaction, saying, "How have these Men who are Natives of *Galilee*, and have lived all their Life-time there, acquired this Knowledge? For in our own respective Languages we hear them preaching the Doctrine of Christ, and the wonderful Things God hath wrought by him. This certainly must imply something of great Moment." But others were of a different Opinion, and in a scoffing manner ridiculing the Miracle, said, "This is only the Effect of drinking new Wine; 'tis that intoxicates this Faculty in them." Hereupon the Apostles rising from their Seats, *Peter*, as eldest, in the Name of the rest makes this Defence: "Ye Men of *Judea*, and all that at this time see and hear what the Lord hath done, be assured these Things are not the Effect of Wine: Ye know in your Consciences it cannot be so, since it is but (e) Nine of the Clock.

*Nine of the Clock.* This was which the Jews generally came fast-time of Morning Prayers, to ing.

"But

" But this is a Completion of a famous (f) Pro-  
 " phecy of *Joel*, who saith, *In the last Days I will*  
 " *pour out my Spirit upon all Flesh; your Sons and your*  
 " *Daughters shall prophesy, your young Men shall see Vi-*  
 " *sions, and your old Men shall dream Dreams.* And  
 " Ranks and Qualities of Men shall receive the Ef-  
 " fusion of the Spirit of God, to inable them, that  
 " were never brought up in the Schools of the Pro-  
 " phets, to go and preach the Gospel of Christ in eve-  
 " ry City. And after that there shall be fearful and  
 " stupendous Sights and Prodigies, and many great  
 " Slaughters in *Judea*, as Forerunners and Prognos-  
 " ticks of the great Destruction which shall befall the  
 " People for their crucifying Christ, and from which  
 " the only Way to rescue your selves is to repent and  
 " acknowledge him, which is the Design of this mi-  
 " raculous Descent of the Holy Ghost. Observe and  
 " attend, ye Men of *Israel*, for you are chiefly con-  
 " cern'd in this great Affair: This Jesus of *Nazareth*  
 " being demonstrated to be sent from God by the  
 " mighty Works which he did among you, all which  
 " you know to be true, being Eye-witnesses of them  
 " Him, I say, being (g) permitted by God to fall in-  
 " to your Hands, you apprehended and barbarously  
 " crucified; Him, whom God by his determinate  
 " Counsel had given to retrieve your lost Condition

(f) Prophecy. See *Joel* 2. 28.

(g) Permitted. The Text, *Acts* 2. 23. runs thus, *Him, being delivered by the determinate Counsel and Foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked Hands have crucified and slain.* Now how much soever a Man may be convinced of the Goodness, Wisdom, and Justice of God, he cannot read what the Translations make *St. Peter* say to the *Jews*, without conceiving some odd Notions of the Apostle, who reproaches that Nation with the highest Impiety, for executing that which was the expresse Order of the Will of God, of his irrevocable Purpose and absolute Decree. But if we consult the Original, we shall find that this Inconsistency is not to be attributed to the A-

postle, but to Prejudice or Negligence of the Translators, who make the apostle speak the quite contrary to what he designs. We must observe, that it does not make use of the Verb which expresses the Action of *Judas*, in the Crime of the *Jews*, in betraying their Saviour, and delivering him to *Pilate*, but of the Participle [*Delivered*] which denotes the Gift and the Gift which God had made of his Son to the *Jews*, to reclaim them from Error and Sin. So that the Words should thus render'd, *That having taken him who had been given them by the determinate Counsel and Foreknowledge of God, they had crucified and delivered him with wicked Hands.*



ye with profane Hands have slain. This same Jesus, whom ye thus treated, hath God raised again, delivering him from the Power of Death; and, besides many other Things, the Prophecies concerning him necessarily required that he should not lie under Death: For of him (*b*) *David* saith, I waited, and looked with Assurance on God, for he is my Defender, and will not let me miscarry. And for this my Tongue shall praise him, and my Flesh shall rest confident in him. Nay, though I die, yet shalt thou not leave me long dead, but shalt preserve me from Corruption. Thou hast cheered me, and abundantly refreshed me with thy Favour. Give me leave, Brethren, to speak freely concerning *David*, that prophesied thus: He died like other Men, had a solemn Interment, and we have his Monument to this Day to shew, from whence he never rose. And therefore he spake not of himself, but by way of Prediction of the Messias, who he knew should infallibly spring from his Loins, and be a Prince and Ruler of his Church. And these Words of his were prophetick, and literally verified in the Resurrection of Jesus, whose Soul did not continue so long in a State of Separation, as that his Body should be corrupted. And accordingly hath God raised him up within three Days, and all we Apostles are Eye-witnesses of it. He being therefore assumed to his regal State and Office in Heaven, and God having performed to him this Promise of giving him Power to send the Holy Ghost, he hath now punctually fulfilled his Promise to us in sending it on us in this prodigious Manner as you see and hear; one great Effect of which you your selves can testify, for you hear us speaking Languages which a short Time before we understood not. This great important Truth therefore I now proclaim to you, That God the Father hath raised up that Christ, whom ye *Jews*

(b) *David*. See *Psalm* 138. 2, &c.

“ have



“ have crucified, and by assuming him to his right  
 “ Hand, hath instated him in the true kingly Office  
 “ of the Messias.”

This Speech of *Peter's* was so moving to the Audience, that it struck them with great Compunction. And as Men that were willing to do any thing to rescue themselves from the Guilt of so horrible a Sin as crucifying the Messias, they cried out most passionately to *Peter* and the rest of the Apostles, intreating their Direction and Advice what to do in this Case. To which earnest Request *Peter* joins a most affectionate Readiness to retrieve them; telling them there was but one Way left, and that was, with true Contrition and Acknowledgment of their Sin, to quit themselves of this Infidelity, and by a thorough and sincere Change to enter upon the Christian Profession, with a firm Resolution of never falling from it, and so to receive Baptism from the Apostles, by which Christ had empower'd them to convey Remission of Sins to all true Penitents; further promising them that they should receive the (i) Gift of the Holy Ghost: “ For to you, saith he, O Men of *Israel!* the Benefit of that Promise belongs, if you will lay hold on it; and primarily to you *Jews* was this Promise of the Holy Ghost made, that by our Preaching to you, ye might be converted, and convinced of the Evil you have done, and upon Repentance be receiv-

(i) *Gift.* The Gift of the Holy Ghost is either internal, or external. The internal Gift signifies a miraculous Confirmation of Believers in the Faith, denoting some Effects of the Holy Spirit upon them, in some inward Gifts, conveyed by Preaching, Baptizing, Confirming, and other Parts of the Ministry of the Apostles, their further instructing them in the Gospel, which is therefore in another Place called the *Ministration of the Spirit*, or means of communicating it to others. The outward Gifts are those *Charismata*, Gifts of Healing, Gifts of Tongues, of Prophesying, &c. Now to know what sort of Gift is here meant, the surest Way will be, not so to define of one as

to exclude the other, but to comprehend both under this Phrase: Not both and every Branch of each should be effused on each Believer, but that they all should be diffus'd among them; inward by Baptism or Confirmation signed on all; and the outward bestowed on some of them, to testify to all the Truth and Excellency of the Gospel, and to fit and prepare some Persons for sacred Employments: Not all the outward Gifts upon each Believer, some on one, some on another; as Gift of Tongues to one, of Healing to a second, of Prophesying to a third, and they that had most of the highest Degrees of these, are called *Full of the Spirit*.

ved into Mercy. And as the Advantage hereof first belongs to you, to whom we have made our first Address; so in the next Place, upon your rejecting it, it must be extended to the rest of the World." Many other Discourses to the same Effect he there made, conjuring and hastening them with all speed to get out of this dangerous State of Infidelity, in which the Multitude of the *Jews* were engaged. Upon this Sermon of St. *Peter's*, all that were really affected with what he said, renounced their former Course of Life, and proved the Sincerity of their Change by receiving Baptism. And that Day about three thousand Souls were converted to the Faith of Christ, who continued assiduous in hearing the Apostles teach, and in bringing their Goods liberally for the Use of them that wanted, constantly attending at Prayer, and eating the Lord's Supper. Nor were the Converts only affected with Fear and Reverence, but a general Astonishment surprized all that saw these strange and early Operations of the Holy Ghost, which were still confirm'd by the many Miracles the Apostles perform'd.

The Faith of Christ thus gaining ground, those that receiv'd it assembled together for the Service of God, observing constant Times of publick Prayers, and receiving the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; they distributed to the Necessities of the poorer Sort as freely as God had given them Ability, spending their Time in Acts of Devotion and Charity, exercising Works of Mercy to all: By whose pious Examples God moved the Hearts of others to join this Number of the faithful, gave the Apostles a fruitful Harvest of their Ministry by daily bringing in new Converts, who upon their Exhortations rescued themselves from the wicked and dangerous Converse of the perverse *Jews*, and heartily imbraced the Doctrine of Christ.

After this miraculous Conversion by St. *Peter's* Sermon, he and St. *John* went together to the Temple three in the Afternoon, which was one of the Times

of

of Day generally set apart for Prayer. And as they enter'd in at the Gate of the Temple toward the East in Solomon's Porch, which was called the Beautiful Gate, there lay an impotent Man, that had been so from his Birth, who used to beg the Alms of those that daily came to pray there. The Cripple seeing *Peter* and *John* going into the Temple, begs their Charity: The Apostles stop at the Importunity of the Man; and looking earnestly on him, *Peter* bids the Cripple look on them. The poor Man expecting the usual eleemosynary Dole of them, with Eyes craving Pity looked on them. Then *Peter* said to him, "Thou Alms thou requirest I have not to give; but that which exceeds the Worth of Silver and Gold, and will eminently supply thy Wants, I freely bestow on thee: In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth rise up and walk." And taking him by the Hand, he helped him up, and immediately he was cured of his Lameness, being able to stand and walk. Upon this miraculous Cure the poor Man, now no longer a Cripple, enters with the Apostles into the Temple to demonstrate the Miracle, and to praise God for the Instruments of his Cure. Having many Years sat as an Object of Charity there, he must of course be well known to all pious People who used to go that Way; who seeing him walking and praising God were amazed at the Greatness of the Cure. The Rumour of this soon spread about; and as the poor Man thus healed kept close to *Peter* and *John*, being unwilling to part with those from whom he had received so great a Benefit, the People in great Numbers crouded about the Apostles. To whom *Peter* thus address'd himself, "Men of *Israel*, why do you look upon this Cure as a Thing strange? (The Miracles of Jesus were greater than this.) Or why do ye attribute a Thing to us in this Matter, as if there were an Excellency in us to which this Cure were to be imputed? The God of our Fathers hath given the Power of working Miracles to Jesus, whom ye delivered

delivered to *Pilate* to be crucified, releasing a known Murderer and Thief, and putting to Death Him, who came to bring Life to the World; whom God hath pleased to raise from the Dead, and make us Witnesses thereof. And now 'tis by Belief in him, that this Man hath been recovered from his Lameness. The Man you know, having for many Years seen him a begging Cripple. And this Faith working by his Power on whom we believe, hath wrought this remarkable Cure, at which you all so much wonder. Now this, I suppose Brethren, that you of the Multitude, who did thus reject Christ, did not know Him to be the Messias, and the same I suppose of your Rulers. But by these Means the many Prophecies of Scripture, that the Messias should be put to death, have been fulfilled. Do you therefore amend your Lives, that this may be pardoned, that the second Coming of Christ for the Delivery and Rescue of the Faithful may by your Repentance become matter of Advantage and Comfort to you; to which End it was that he was first sent to you *Jews* peculiarly, that if ye repent ye might reap the Benefit, and not be destroyed with the Obstinate. This Christ being now entered upon his Regal Power, thereby hath fulfill'd all the Prophecies concerning him, particularly that of *Moses*, of destroying and cutting off from the Earth all those *Jews* that shall reject the Messias, when he cometh. And not only *Moses*, but all the Prophets from (*k*) *Samuel*, as many as spake, have foretold the Coming of the Messias, the Destruction of those that reject, and the special Mercies to them that believe in him. Ye are the peculiar Per-

(*k*) *Samuel*. The Account of the Prophets is here begun from *Samuel*, while the Schools of the Prophets were first instituted and erected by him, so that there was no Prophet before him. The Sons of the Prophets spent their Time in studying the Law, in praising and serving God; and by

them some were sent on Messages to the People (for all were not called by God to the Prophetick Office) and therefore it is here added, *As many as spake*, that is, as many as out of the Schools of the Prophets were by God called to the Prophetick Office.

“ sons



“ sons of whom the Prophets foretold, and to whom  
 “ the Covenant belongs, which was made to *Abra-*  
 “ *ham*, in which was promised that the Posterity of  
 “ him should be so blessed, that all the Families and  
 “ People of the World, that would bless themselves  
 “ or others, should use this Form, *God bless them, and*  
 “ *he blessed Abraham's Seed.* This was upon the ac-  
 “ count of having Christ given them, besides many  
 “ other special Prerogatives bestowed on them. This  
 “ accordingly is perform'd and accomplish'd. For  
 “ God having rais'd this Christ again, hath, by our  
 “ preaching his Resurrection first to you, sent him a-  
 “ gain in a most glorious Manner to bless his Ene-  
 “ mies, to do to them all the good Offices imagin-  
 “ ble, by Tendernefs and Charity to work upon his  
 “ most obdurate Crucifiers, and to turn every one of  
 “ you from your Infidelity and Impenitence, and so  
 “ to make you capable of his Pardon and Mercy, in  
 “ you shall be thus wrought on, and converted by so  
 “ efficacious Means.”

Whilst *Peter* was instructing the People, the Captain  
 that guarded the Porches of the Temple to keep the  
 Peace, at the Instigation of the Sadduces, came with  
 an arm'd Force, seiz'd the two Apostles, and led them  
 to Prison; notwithstanding which, so great was the  
 Power and Efficacy of *Peter's* Preaching, that five  
 thousand more Converts were added to the Church  
 and Faith of Christ. The two Apostles being confin-  
 ed all Night, the next Morning they of whom the  
*Sanhedrin* consisted, and particularly *Annas* and *Caiaphas*  
 assembling in Council, caused *Peter* and *John* to be  
 brought before them, whom they examined upon their  
 Interrogatories: How they were enabled to do the  
 Miracle on the Lame Man? Whose Name they in-  
 voked, and from whom they pretended to have Com-  
 mission thus to preach to the People? In answer to  
 these Questions, *Peter* being by the Spirit of God in-  
 dued with an extraordinary Presence of Mind, and  
 Elocution, spake thus: “ Ye Rulers of the People



“ and Elders of *Israel*, we are this Day examined before you concerning an Action, which is so far from being criminal, that it is an Act of special Mercy. Be assur’d, that this miraculous Cure perform’d on the *Lame Man* was wrought by no other Means than by invoking the Name of *Jesus of Nazareth*, whom ye crucified, and God most miraculously raised again. This is he that was prophesied of under the Title of a refuse Stone, rejected by you, the chief of the *Jews*, and treated with Contempt, but is now by his Resurrection inthron’d in Power (an Effect of which is this Miracle wrought in his Name) and is indeed become the Ruler and King of the Church, the prime Foundation-stone of the whole Fabrick. In him alone must Salvation now be hoped for by all; for there is no other Religion in the World, whether that which was delivered by *Moses*, or any other, by which ye can expect to be saved, but by receiving and imbracing his Doctrine, which we preach.” When the Court saw with what Courage and Freedom of Speech the Apostles behav’d themselves, and withal considering that their Education had not thus elevated them above the Capacity of other Men, being neither skill’d in the Learning of the *Jews*, nor as Men of Distinction among them instructed in their Laws, they were amaz’d at it; but considering they were some of those that attended on *Jesus* in his life-time, and observing the Man on whom they had wrought the miraculous Cure, stand with them and ready to attest it, though they were as maliciously affected towards them as Envy could inspire, yet having nothing to object against Fact, either as it respected the Man that was cur’d, or the Apostles that perform’d the Cure, they thought fit in this Difficulty to consult by themselves what Expedient to make use of: and therefore commanding the Apostles to withdraw, they enter upon this Debate, demanding of one another how they should proceed in this Case. “ As to the Men, we have nothing to accuse them of: For, that they have

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“ perform’d a great Miracle is apparent to all Men,  
 “ and we cannot deny ; and the Man that was healed  
 “ is a living Witness : Since therefore they are guilty  
 “ of no Breach of our Laws, to prevent their further se-  
 “ ducing of the People, who are apt to be led away by  
 “ them, we will call them in, and forbid them upon se-  
 “ vere Penalties to preach Christ and his Gospel any  
 “ more.” Thus they decreed, and accordingly send-  
 ing for them, commanded them not to talk privately  
 or teach publicly any Thing concerning the Faith of  
 Christ. But the Christian Heroes, whose Commission  
 was from a higher Power than any on Earth, slighting  
 this Interdict and all their Threats, declar’d, That they  
 were commanded by God to do their Duty, and that in  
 all reason God must be obey’d before any temporal  
 Magistrate ; in which they appeal’d to the *Sanbedrim*,  
 plainly telling them, they should not desist from doing  
 their Duty, but openly testify these important Truths of  
 Christ, so peculiarly made known to them, that they  
 might proclaim them to others, and which none could  
 more fairly attest than themselves, who had been Eye  
 and Ear-witnesses of them. The Court not knowing  
 what else to say to them, being unable to deny their  
 Arguments, added more Threatnings, if possibly that  
 might terrify them ; and so dismissed them, having no  
 thing to lay to their Charge, but the curing the lame  
 Man in the Name of Jesus : and for this all the People  
 look’d on them with Reverence and Esteem, and counte-  
 ned it an Act of God’s immediate infinite Mercy ; for  
 which they that were the Instruments of it, ought to  
 be bless’d, not punish’d by them, and therefore they  
 durst not punish or censure them for it.

The two Apostles being dismiss’d, with Joy return’d  
 to their Companions, who with infinite Satisfaction  
 hear the report of all that had pass’d, and unanimously  
 glorify God, who by his holy Prophet (*l*) David had  
 foretold what was now come to pass, that the Jews  
 should oppose Christ, say false Things of him, deny and

(l) David. See Psalm 2. 1.

crucify him first, and, when God had raised him from the Dead, oppose the preaching of him; that the Princes and Governors, *Herod* and *Pontius Pilate*, should combine against him, and the Rulers should in Council consult against him the *Messias* that God had sent :  
(*m*) “ For it is a certain Truth, That *Herod* and *Pontius Pilate* gathered themselves together with the *Gentiles* and People of *Israel*, against this holy Child *Jesus*, whom he had anointed to do whatsoever his Power and Wisdom determined to be done. And now, O Lord, behold their Threatnings, and inable us thy Servants powerfully to preach thy Gospel, and to work miraculous Cures on all those, on whom

(*m*) For it. See *Acts* 4. 27, 28. This Text as it is translated, is as puzzling as that we have mark'd in the Note (*z*) permitted. For here at the End of the Discourse of St. *Peter* and St. *John*, the Translators render the Original thus : For of a Truth against the holy Child *Jesus*, whom thou hast anointed, both *Herod* and *Pontius Pilate* with the *Gentiles* and People of *Israel*, were gathered together, for to do whatsoever thy Hand and thy Counsel determined before to be done. But this is likewise occasioned by the Prejudices of the same Translators, which made them attribute to God a Design which he every where declares he hates and abhors, and which the Apostles do only ascribe to the Devil, and to those who serv'd him as Instruments to oppress and crucify *Jesus*. For the Terms of the Original do plainly shew, “ That *Herod* and *Pontius Pilate* gathered together with the *Gentiles* and People of *Israel*, against his holy Child *Jesus*, whom he had anointed to do whatsoever his Power and Wisdom had before determined to be done.” Besides, we need but consider, that this Place is not precisely to be understood of the Death of *Jesus Christ*, but of the wicked Conspiracy of *Herod*, *Pilate*, the *Gentiles* and *Jews*, to put him to death, as if that had been pre-ordin'd and determin'd by God's Decree (but now *Christ* had been for some time crucified) but of the Persecution of the Apostles and Christian Church by all these Infidels; *Jesus Christ* looking up-

on the Sufferings of his Disciples and Members, as his own, according to what he himself says to *Paul*, when he persecuted his Church, *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?* This is still more evident from the following Part of this Discourse : for the Apostles having spoken of the miraculous Cure of the lame Man, and of the Prohibition of the Council of the *Jews* to preach in the Name of *Jesus*, and of the severe Threatnings denounced against those that should continue to preach his Doctrine ; all the Assembly unanimously lifted up their Voice, and pronounced those Words : Which plainly shews, that they spake of some particular Conspiracy against themselves. But take it what way you please, it will not admit of the common Explication that is put upon it ; for it is not said, That God had appointed that *Herod*, *Pilate*, and the rest, should have done what they did, but at most that they had done that which God had determined to come to pass ; which are two Things altogether different. God, for example, has determined, that good Men must enter into the Kingdom of Heaven by Crosses and Sufferings, but he has not determined or appointed that the wicked should persecute them ; he has only left the Government of the World in the Hands of those who are Enemies to his Religion, who by a deliberate Malice abuse that Power which has been given them, and persecute that Religion which opposes their Corruptions, and condemns their wicked Practices.

“ we shall invoke the Name of thy holy Son Jesus.” Upon this Prayer of the faithful Congregation, there came the like Wind as before mention’d, and shook the Place where they were, and special eminent Gifts of God’s Spirit fell upon those that were there present; and this was such a Confirmation to them all, that without Scruple or Fear, they publish’d the Gospel of Christ; in a happy Concord and Union agreeing in the same Christian Designs, no one of the Company laying any particular Claim to those Necessaries which they had, but by a common Right enjoy’d them, without Difference or Distinction. And the Apostles continued their ministerial Office with Vigilance and Care, confirming with many Miracles their preaching of Christ’s Resurrection.

Now that there might be no want of competent Provision, those Believers who had Estates or Goods brought in plentiful Contributions, and selling their Possessions of Lands or Houses, gave the Price of them to the Apostles, who received it of them for the publick Use, and distributed to every one as Necessity required. Among these kind and faithful Contributors none was more sincere and ready than *Joses* the Cyprian, surnamed by the Apostles *Barnabas*, (a true Son of Consolation) who having a Piece of Land of his own (not any Part of the *Levites* Portion, though himself was a *Levite*) made sale of it, and brought the full Price of it, and put it wholly in the Power of the Apostles to dispose of, and distribute it as they thought most convenient. But the great Enemy of Mankind, seeing the mighty Improvement and Increase of the Church of Christ, and that from a slender Semination of the Gospel there was likely to be a vast Harvest, scatters the Tares of Craft and Hypocrisy in this blessed Field. Among the rest that resorted to these Assemblies of the Faithful, and contributed to their mutual Support, an unhappy Pair, *Ananias* and *Sapphira*, with joint Consent devoted all they had to the use of the Church, and to that purpose sold their Estate: But they had com-



bin'd together to keep some part of the Money for themselves. *Ananias* coming first into the Presence of the Apostles, with great Assurance and seeming Chearfulness produces the Money, and lays it at the Apostles Feet. But *Peter*, who by divine Inspiration knew the Cheat, in a holy Indignation and Abhorrence of so vile an Act of Sacrilege, thus reprehends him: "How, O *Ananias*, hath Satan persuaded thee thus to attempt to deceive the Holy Ghost, in purloining Part of that which thou hadst consecrated to God's Service, and the Use of his Church? Before it was sold, was it not wholly thine? And when it was sold, didst thou not receive the full Price for which it was sold? Was it not then in thy Power fully to perform thy Vow? Upon what Motive then hast thou done this? This Falsity in concealing the full Price is not only an Injury to the Church, but to God, who knew thy private Vow, that it was consecrating of all, and not this Part only which thou hast brought to us." These piercing Words of *Peter*, and the Horror of Guilt, affected *Ananias* with Despair, that he fell down dead immediately on the spot, to the great Astonishment and Terror of all those that were present. His Body being remov'd in order to be interr'd, about three Hours after this Judgment fell on *Ananias*, his Wife *Sapphira* came into the Assembly with the same Assurance, not in the least suspecting what had happen'd to her sacrilegious Consort. *Peter* examining her, whether the Sum which they brought was the full Sum for which the field was sold? She answer'd, It was. Whereupon *Peter* with the same Spirit of religious Indignation thus pronounces Sentence against her: "How durst you both combine to provoke God, to try whether he will punish this your impious Fraud, or no? That thou mayst see how highly God resents your sacrilegious Intentions, behold the Men are coming in, who have buried thy dead Husband, and now they shall do as much for thee." She no sooner hears her doom pronounced, but it is executed on her; for she



immediately fell down dead at his Feet ; and the same Officers that buried her Husband, carry her out from the Assembly, and lay her by him. This Judgment upon these sacrilegious Wretches, not only affects the Believers with Fear and Reverence, but all others to whom it was related.

After this the Apostles solemnly met together to preach and do Miracles, in the Entrance to the Temple call'd *Solomon's Porch*. But none of the Believers durst consort with the Twelve, through the Reverence which these late Acts had procured ; but the People who saw and heard what was done, magnified them. And these Miracles, which had wrought such an awful Esteem in the Faithful towards the Apostles, were a Means also to stir up Faith in all the common Sort of People, who had such an intire Confidence in the Power of working miraculous Cures, that they believed the very Shadow of *Peter*, walking by diseased Persons, would cure them ; and thereupon they brought forth their sick and impotent Friends into the Streets, and those that were not able to go or stand, they lay upon Beds and Couches, that *Peter* in his Passage might either touch them or cover them with his Shadow. Nor were these miraculous Transactions confin'd to the Inhabitants of *Jerusalem*, but the neighbouring Cities shar'd in the Benefit, the People from all Parts thereabout bringing their diseased and possessed Patients to these heavenly Physicians, who answer'd their Expectations in a present Relief.

The Fame of these wonderful Performances of the Apostles again reaching the Ears of the *Sanbedrim* (most of them being of the Sect of the Sadduces) they are highly incensed, and resolve at once to come to these insolent Doings, as they imagined. In order to which they apprehend the Apostles, and imprison them in the common Goal. But the Malice of their Enemies could not long detain them in any Place ; for the Night a heavenly Messenger brings them a Charge, telling them, it was the Will of the Almighty

Power, that they should not fear to do their Duty, but go into the Temple, and there preach the Doctrine of their Lord and Master. In obedience to the Divine Message and Direction, early in the Morning they repair to the Temple, and there expounded the Scriptures, and taught the Doctrine of Christ out of them.

They of the *Sanhedrin* thinking the Apostles had been in safe Custody, went to the Court, and sent their Officers to bring them before them. But when the Officers came to the Prison, and found no Body in it, they returned with great Surprize, telling those that sent them; "That they found the Prison-Doors shut, and the Guard carefully watching without, but that the Prisoners were not there." When the *Sanhedrin* of the *Jews*, and the Captain that set the Guard, heard this, they were strangely perplex'd, and wonder'd how it could be, that the Prison being shut, and the Guard at the Doors, the Prisoners should escape; suspecting this must presage some strange Thing. But whilst they labour'd under this Perplexity, a Messenger comes into Court, and assures them, "That the Men whom they last Night committed to Prison, were standing in the Temple, and instructing the People." Hereupon the Captain of the Guard, taking Officers with him, went straightway to the Temple, and persuaded the Apostles to go with him to the Council, not daring to offer any Violence, for fear the People should stone them. Being set before the Council, the High-Priest charges them with Condemnation, saying, "Did we not strictly command you not to publish this Doctrine of Christ, nor teach in his Name? And yet in contempt of our Authority, ye have published it in the Temple to all the City, and indeavoured as much as in you lies, by laying his Blood to our Charge, to raise a Mutiny against us as his Murderers." To this Charge the Apostles made the same Defence as before: "To us who were commanded by God to publish the Gos-

"pel, your Interdict is of no force. When God re-  
 "leases us from Prison, where you confin'd us, and  
 "commands us to go into the Temple, and preach  
 "the Faith of Christ, we are to render Obedience  
 "to him, and not to your contradictory Decrees.  
 "The God of *Israel*, acknowledg'd by us all, hath sent  
 "the Messias into the World, with his special Com-  
 "mission, whom when ye had crucified as a Male-  
 "factor, God raised from Death, took him into Hea-  
 "ven, and invested him with Regal Power, from  
 "thence to send the Spirit of his Father, (which was  
 "not to descend till he was ascended) and by that  
 "means to give you *Jews* place for Repentance, that  
 "if ye will yet come in, and believe on him, ye may  
 "have Pardon of your Sins. The Truth of this we  
 "now testify, and so doth the Holy Ghost, that came  
 "down upon us, and the rest that have consoled  
 "with us, and is communicated by us to all that be-  
 "lieve and pay Obedience to him." This Answer  
 of the Apostles being a just Reproach upon the *Sanhe-  
 drin*, stung them to the Heart, insomuch that by a  
 speedy Sentence they resolve to silence them; and  
 therefore they enter into a Consultation how to put  
 them to Death. But *Gamaliel*, a learned Doctor of  
 the Law, and of great Reputation among the People  
 seeing the desperate Inclination of the Council, indea-  
 vours to divert them from this dangerous Expedient  
 and ordering the Apostles to withdraw, addresses him-  
 self thus to the Council. "I advise you to be cauti-  
 "ous, O Men of *Israel*, in what you do to these  
 "Men. For we have Examples of Men, that have  
 "gathered Followers, and raised Seditions among  
 "the People; but have come to nothing. As for in-  
 "stance, *Theudas*, that undertook to be a General  
 "boasting that he was sent by God to that purpose  
 "and so got four hundred Men to follow him, soon  
 "miscarried, for himself was kill'd, and all his Ad-  
 "herents put to flight. After him rose up *Judas* of  
 "*Galilee* in the Days of Taxing, who drew a mighty  
 "Concourse

Concourse of People after him ; but he soon perished, and all his Followers were dispers'd. I advise you therefore not to be hasty in your Proceedings against these Men, but rather dismiss them ; for the Doctrine which they preach is either from God, or not. If it be not from God, it will without our Opposition come to nothing ; the certain Fate of false Prophets : But if it be from God, you may be sure you will not be able to prevail against it, for all our obstinate Oppositions and Enterprizes will be flying in God's Face, and striving against the eternal Decrees of his Providence." This sober Advice cool'd the hot-headed *Sanhedrin*, who submitted to the Prudence of *Gamaliel*. Then calling for the Apostles into Court again, they order'd them to be scourged (a very reproachful Punishment) and charging them not to preach the Faith of Christ any more, they released them. But this Punishment was matter of Joy and Comfort to the Apostles, that they were advanced to that Degree of Honour and Blessedness, to be scourg'd for preaching Christ. After this they were constantly in the Temple, or in some House, instructing those that had already received the Faith, or teaching it to those that had not.

And now the Number of Christians daily increasing, the *Jews* that understood (*n*) *Greek*, and used the *Greek* Bible in their Congregation, complain'd of unequal and partial Dealing ; That there was little care taken of their Widows, in proportion to the *Hellenists*, in the daily Distribution or Provision that was made for the Poor. Then the twelve Apostles, calling the Church together, said thus : " It is not rea-

(*n*) *Greek*. The Title of *Greek* does not only signify those who are *Greeks* by Birth, or who speak *Greek*, but also signifies all Idolaters, in opposition to the *Jews*, who only worshipp'd the true God. For which reason, to avoid Ambiguity, the true Signification of it should be determined according to the Contexture and Circumstances where it is employed. As when St. Mark calls the

Woman, whose Daughter had an unclean Spirit, a *Greek*, Mark 7. 26. for she could not be a *Greek* by Nation, since it is expressly observ'd, that she was a *Syrian*, and since *Syria* was at a great Distance from *Greece* ; the same Amendment must be made, Rom. 1. 16. Gal. 3. 28. and here *Acts* 6. 1. and 9. 29. where mention is made of the *Greeks*, we must translate, *The Jews that spoke Greek*.

"sonable



“sonable that we should neglect the Preaching of the  
 “Gospel, and undertake the Care of looking after  
 “the Poor. Therefore, Brethren, do you nominate  
 “to us seven Men, who have approved themselves  
 “to be faithful trusty Persons, eminent among you  
 “for Wisdom and other good Gifts, that (o) we may  
 “appoint, that is, consecrate or ordain to the Office  
 “of Deacons in the Church, and intrust them with  
 “the Care of distributing to them that want, out of  
 “the publick Stock. And in the Choice of them, let  
 “it be observed, that they be Persons well vers’d in  
 “the Knowledge of divine Matters, that they may  
 “be assisting to us upon Occasion in preaching the  
 “Word, and receiving Profelytes to the Faith by  
 “Baptism. And by these means we shall be less in-  
 “terrupted in our daily Imployment of praying, and  
 “preaching the Gospel.” This Proposal pleas’d the  
 whole Assembly, and they immediately put it into Ex-  
 ecution, nominating seven, the first of whom was *Steph-  
 phen*, a very worthy Person, richly instructed in the  
 Doctrine of Christ, and was by the Holy Ghost’s Co-  
 ming upon him furnished with Elocution and all other  
 Abilities to preach the Gospel; the other six were  
*Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Ni-  
 colas*. These Seven the Disciples presented to the  
 Twelve Apostles, who by Prayer and Imposition of  
 Hands ordain’d them to this Office of Deacons.  
 Then the Faith of Christ was propagated, and a very  
 great Number of Men in *Jerusalem* associated with the

(o) *We may*. This Part of the Text, *Acts* 16. 3. in many or most of our *English* Bibles is very erroneously rendered; (and it’s much to be feared designedly by our Sectaries) for from the Year of our Lord 1638, to the Year 1660, and in several since, it is printed, *whom ye may appoint*, &c. thereby giving the Power of Ordination into the Hands of the Laity. The Bibles printed with this Fault are as follow: That in 8° by *John Field*, 1660. In 24° by the Assigns of *J. Bill* and *Christoph. Barker*, 1674. In 8° by *J. Bill* and *Christoph. Barker*, 1674. In 8° at *Edinburgh*, by *Andrew*

*Anderson* and Partners, 1673, 1675. 8° by *J. Bill, Tho. Newcomb*, and *Hen. Hills*, 1679. In 8° by *J. Bill, Tho. Newcomb*, and *Hen. Hills*, 1680. In 8° by the Assigns of *J. Bill*, and *T. Newcomb*, 1685. *Amsterdam* in Fol. 1679. And *Baxter’s* Paraphrase and several others the Greek Word *Katasthesomen*, we may appoint, is render’d *ye may appoint*. Whether this was by Mistake or Design it is certain to have been, and may be of dangerous Consequence, and has been with Haste and Inadvertency deceived for not unskilful in the Greek, but they have depended upon the Translation.



Apostles, every Day more and more: and many of the Jewish Priests received the Gospel thus preached by the Apostles.

Of the seven Deacons thus ordain'd, *Stephen* was the first and most eminent in the Exercise of his Holy Function, exerting the great Share of the Spirit he had received in doing many Miracles. And as he was preaching the Faith of Christ, some Men of that Synagogue which was call'd by the Name of (p) *Libertines*, and of those that dwelt in *Cyrene*, *Alexandria*, *Cilicia*, and *Asia*, opposed and contradicted *Stephen*. But he expressed himself with so much Knowledge and strength of Argument, that they were not able to deal with him. And being convinced by his powerful Reasons and strong way of Arguing, they in revenge betook themselves to vile Arts, and suborn'd false Witnesses to swear against him and accuse him to the *Sanhedrin*, that they had heard him speak dishonourably of the Jewish Religion. Having thus incens'd the whole City against *Stephen*, they had him apprehended and carried before the *Sanhedrin*: And their Witnesses being produced, they charged him with foretelling Destruction to the Temple, and threatening the Change of all the *Mosaical* Rites and Ceremonies. Whilst the Charge was read against him, the Judges and all that were present in the *Sanhedrin*, as they looked on him, saw a great Splendour about him, just as it is at the Appearance of an Angel. The Chief Priest having heard the Accusation, ask'd him whether he was guilty of thus prophesying the Destruction of the Temple, and Change of the Jewish Religion? In answer to whom he makes this Defence: "Men, Brethren, and Fathers, I beseech you observe. The eternal God of Heaven and Earth appeared to our Father *Abraham* whilst he was in *Mesopotamia*, the Place of his Birth, commanding him to remove from

(p) *Libertines*. These were the Sons of them, who being *Jews*, had been made free Denisons by the *Romans*, or were born of Jewish Parents in Cities

which had those Privileges under the *Romans*, such as *Tarsus*, where *Paul* was born, who was very active in this Business. See *Acts* 7. 28.

" thence,

“ thence, by reason of the Idolatries and other Vices,  
 “ which had crept in among the People. In obedi-  
 “ ence to the divine Command he forsook his Father’s  
 “ House and his Kindred, and taking his Father with  
 “ him he travell’d into *Canaan*, there pitch’d his Tent,  
 “ and built an Altar; where he gave him no Settle-  
 “ ment for the present, (he being soon after forc’d to  
 “ remove into *Egypt*, and sojourn there) but there  
 “ he receiv’d God’s Promise, that his Posterity should  
 “ inherit and possess the whole Land, though at the  
 “ Time of this Promise he had no Child, nor any  
 “ seeming Prospect of Issue or Inheritance. However,  
 “ God confirm’d this Promise to him with these con-  
 “ curring Circumstances; That his Posterity should  
 “ live in *Canaan*, and after that go down into *Egypt*,  
 “ where they should be oppress’d like Slaves, till the  
 “ End of four hundred Years, from the Time of *Isaac*’s  
 “ Birth, until the Time that the Iniquity of the Seven  
 “ Nations (all concluded under the general Name of  
 “ *Amorites*, who inhabited this promised Land) should  
 “ be filled up; and so they being fitted for God in  
 “ Justice to destroy, he should give away their Land  
 “ from them. And then in the fourth Generation  
 “ from *Jacob*, when the Time of their Deliverance  
 “ from the *Egyptian* Slavery was at hand, God said  
 “ I will judge the *Egyptians*, lay heavy Punishment  
 “ upon them, and make them release thy Posterity  
 “ who shall come and possess this Land, and serve me  
 “ in it. And in confirmation of this Promise, God  
 “ made a Covenant with *Abraham*, and appointed  
 “ Circumcision as a Seal of it; and accordingly *Abra-*  
 “ *ham*, when *Isaac* was born, circumcised him the  
 “ eighth Day; and *Isaac* begat and circumcised *Jac-*  
 “ *cob*, and *Jacob* his Twelve Sons, the Heads of the  
 “ Twelve Tribes, of which this People consisted.  
 “ These Sons of *Jacob* were much displeased with *Joseph*  
 “ *seph* one of their Brethren, and sold him into *Egypt*,  
 “ but God protected and preserved him miraculously  
 “ delivering him from Prison; and at the same time  
 “ brought

“ brought him into great Favour with *Pharaoh* the  
 “ King of *Egypt*, who had so great an Opinion of his  
 “ Wisdom and Justice, that he trusted him with the  
 “ whole Management of his Kingdom. Whilst *Jo-*  
 “ *seph* flourish’d thus in the Favour of this Prince, a  
 “ terrible Famine raged in *Egypt* and *Canaan* for se-  
 “ ven Years, and our Father *Jacob* and his Children  
 “ were like to have perished for Want of Food. But  
 “ *Jacob*, understanding that there was a Magazine  
 “ of Corn reserv’d in *Egypt*, sent his Sons thither twice  
 “ to buy Corn; and though at first *Joseph* treated them  
 “ roughly, yet the second Time he discovered himself  
 “ to be their Brother, and introduced them to *Pha-*  
 “ *raoh*; by whose Order *Joseph* sent for his Father  
 “ and Brethren, and their Children, where, with their  
 “ Families, they lived comfortably, *Jacob* and his  
 “ twelve Sons dying there. And *Joseph* and some of  
 “ his Brethren, being first buried in *Egypt*, were at  
 “ the Time of the *Israelites* Deliverance from Bon-  
 “ dage removed to *Sichem*, and buried in the Field  
 “ bought by *Jacob* of the Children of *Hamor*; and  
 “ *Jacob* was not buried in *Egypt*, but by his Sons car-  
 “ ried and buried in the Field of *Machpelah*, bought  
 “ by *Abraham* of *Ephron* Son of *Zoar*. But when the  
 “ four hundred Years were near expiring, after which  
 “ the Performance of the Promise made to *Abraham*’s  
 “ Seed was to commence, the People growing nume-  
 “ rous, and another King, that knew not the Merits  
 “ of *Joseph*, sitting on the Throne, our Fathers suf-  
 “ fered great Hardships; the King, to suppress their  
 “ Flourishing and Increase, commanding all their  
 “ Male Children to be put to Death. In this Junc-  
 “ ture of Time was *Moses* born, who being a beau-  
 “ tiful Child was first kept close in his Father’s House  
 “ three Months. But when they could no longer  
 “ conceal him there, he was put into a Cradle of  
 “ Rushes, and laid by a River’s Brink; but there left  
 “ and exposed, the Providence of God preserv’d him:  
 “ For it happen’d that *Pharaoh*’s Daughter found him  
 “ there,

“ there, and put him to be nursed to his own Mo-  
 “ ther, and afterwards educated and brought him up  
 “ as her own Son. By these means he was instructed  
 “ in all the Learning of the *Egyptians*, and became a  
 “ considerable Man among them. And when he was  
 “ forty Years old, God having some way revealed to  
 “ him his Purpose of delivering the *Israelites* from  
 “ their Slavery by his Hands, and making him their  
 “ Leader, he resolved to visit them : And seeing an  
 “ *Egyptian* offering an Injury to an *Israelite*, in De-  
 “ fence of the injured *Israelite*, he slew the *Egyptian*.  
 “ This he did as an Act of that Office to which God  
 “ had design’d him ; and thinking that the *Israelites*  
 “ knew that he was by God appointed to be their  
 “ Deliverer, he kill’d the *Egyptian*, as a first Essay, or  
 “ Exercise of that Office : But in this he was mis-  
 “ taken, for they did not as yet discern that God for  
 “ this Purpose had sent him. The next Day he in-  
 “ terposed as a Pacifier of Controversies among them  
 “ to try if they would accept him as a Judge, which  
 “ was another Part of the Office to which he was de-  
 “ sign’d : But the Aggressor in the Controversy re-  
 “ fused his Arbitration, saying, Wilt thou murder me  
 “ as thou didst the *Egyptian* yesterday ? *Moses* being  
 “ thus repuls’d, and fearing by what he had already  
 “ done, he might be brought into Trouble, if it should  
 “ come to the King’s Ear, fled from thence to *Midian*.  
 “ and tarried with *Jethro* the Priest or Prince of that  
 “ Country, whose Daughter he married, and by her  
 “ had two Children. And at the End of a second  
 “ forty Years, which was also the Period of the four-  
 “ hundred Years predicted, as *Moses* was tending his  
 “ Sheep about *Horeb*, or *Sinai*, a Mount famous after-  
 “ wards for God’s delivering the Law out of it, he saw  
 “ a Flame of Fire in a Bush, but the Bush not consum-  
 “ ed by it ; and whilst *Moses* drew near to see the  
 “ Meaning of this strange Thing, the Voice of God  
 “ by an Angel spoke to him, saying, *I am the God of*  
 “ *thy Fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac*



and the God of Jacob. This Voice of God was so terrible to him, and the Flame that appeared in the Bush so glorious and illustrious, that he could not look upon it. Then the same Voice commanded him, in Reverence to the Place, which was the Presence of God, to put off his Shoes; adding, *I know the Oppression of my People, and will certainly relieve them; and therefore commission thee to be their Deliverer.* So that this *Moses*, whom they refused to be their Judge, and compose their Differences, did God make their Captain, to bring them out of *Egypt*, shewing many prodigious Miracles before they left their Slavery, and afterwards rescuing them from the Hands of *Pharaoh* at the Red Sea; and after forty Years spent in the Wilderness, to punish their murmuring, and to shew more of God's Power and miraculous preserving and sustaining them there, they were at last by *Joshua* brought into *Canaan*. Now this very *Moses* was all this while but a Prophet, foretelling the Purpose of God to send another great Prophet to you in these Days, the *Messias*, who should be born in an ordinary Condition of a Daughter of *Abraham*, and warning you to receive and entertain him. This *Moses* afterward, when the People were incamped in the Wilderness, was called up to Mount *Sinai*, where the Law was delivered to him and the *Israelites*; and after all the Prodigies and Miracles used by God to give him Authority with them, the *Israelites* murmured and rebelled against him still, and had a greater mind to be in *Egypt* again, than under his Government; and to that purpose fell into gross Idolatry: for upon pretence that *Moses* had forsaken them, when he went only up to the Mount to receive God's Commands for them, they make them Gods, after the manner of the *Egyptians*. This provoked God to forsake them, to leave them to themselves, to permit them to follow their own Inclinations, which led them to worship the Stars of

“ Hea-



“ Heaven instead of God; who therefore expostulates  
 “ with them: Were the Sacrifices, which you offer’d  
 “ up in the Wilderness all those forty Years, offer’d  
 “ to me, O House of *Israel* ? Nay, as the grossest  
 “ Idolatry, ye set up a Shrine with the Image of one  
 “ of the *Egyptian* Kings under the Title of *Mars*, and  
 “ the Picture of *Saturn* (another Planet) denoting  
 “ another *Egyptian* God ; and these Images of false  
 “ Gods have ye worshipped, which Idolatry will pro-  
 “ duce to you a heavy Captivity. These Fathers of  
 “ ours, continues *Stephen*, had the Ark of the Testi-  
 “ mony with them, which was made exactly accord-  
 “ ing to the Pattern shew’d by God to *Moses*. This  
 “ their Successors, under the Conduct of *Joshua*  
 “ brought with them into *Canaan*, and so continued  
 “ till *David’s* Time ; who, having receiv’d special  
 “ Favour from God, earnestly desired to build a Tem-  
 “ ple for his Service. But God would not permit him  
 “ the Honour of building it, because he had been  
 “ Man of War, and had shed much Blood ; and there-  
 “ fore reserv’d it for his Son *Solomon*, who built it in  
 “ a most sumptuous Manner.” And now *Stephen* ha-  
 “ ving by this long Deduction brought his Discourse to  
 “ the Point in hand, he closes it with an Application  
 “ to the present Occasion. “ But sure, continues he  
 “ God doth not so dwell in this Temple, (who ha-  
 “ the whole World for his Palace) as that he should  
 “ preserve this for ever from being destroy’d, since ye  
 “ by crucifying his Son have provoked him to take  
 “ Vengeance on you, for continuing in the Rebel-  
 “ lions of your Fathers : For if *David’s* Blood-guilti-  
 “ ness made him incapable of building it, yours will  
 “ render you incapable of having it continued to you  
 “ For as your Fathers persecuted and slew the old Pro-  
 “ phets, who foretold the coming of the *Messias* ;  
 “ you, now he is actually come, have betray’d and  
 “ murder’d him. A Sin heighten’d with the great  
 “ Aggravations imaginable, whether we consider the  
 “ Person thus treated by you, or you that used him  
 “ thus

thus : He the holiest Person in the World, that came to be your Saviour; and you the People of God, the very Men, for whose Sake the Law was deliver'd by God to an Host of Angels, and by them to you; and yet you have not obey'd it, nor embrac'd him who came to perfect that Law, but absolutely rebelled against all."

This whole Sermon of *Stephen's*, but especially the close of it, foretelling their Destruction for their Cruelty, wounded them deep; but instead of producing Contrition, it exasperated them the more, and incited them against *Stephen* to that degree, that they revolv'd upon his Death with all the Expressions of Rage and Malice. But he, inspired with holy Courage, above all Fear of their Fury, looking up to Heaven, saw the Appearance of Angels about God, and Jesus standing, as in a Posture of Readiness to assist and help, close by him. This Vision so animated him, that he could not forbear proclaiming it to his Persecutors, saying, *Behold I see the Heavens open'd, and the Son of Man standing on the right Hand of God* : Which so inflam'd their cruel Zeal, that they immediately dragg'd him out of the City to stone him; and they that were Evidence against him, and were according to the Law to be his Executioners, put off their Clothes to themselves for their Work, and a young Man nam'd *Saul* undertook to look to them; and all the Time that they cast Stones at him, he continued in Prayer to God, and at last concluded in this charitable Expression for his Enemies and Murderers, *Lord, lay not this Sin to their Charge*. And so gave up the Ghost.

At the Death of *Stephen*, *Saul*, who was afterwards so crown'd an Apostle, was one of those that approv'd of the stoning of him, and join'd in it. Nor did the Storm which burst out thus violently upon the Protomartyr cease with his Life, the flaming Zeal of the *Jews* exerting it self with the greatest Fury against all the Professors of the Christian Faith at *Jerusalem*; who all, except the Apostles, dispers'd themselves in *Judea* and *Samarina*, and preached to the *Jews*; but the Apostles continued in *Jerusalem*. *Stephen* being thus crown'd

[Vol. 3.]

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with

with Martyrdom, some Profelytes that were in the City made a solemn Funeral for him, and mourn'd at it. As for *Saul*, he continued a violent Persecutor of the Faithful, disturbing them wherever he found them, and without distinction of Age or Sex committed them to Prison. Wherefore those that had dispers'd themselves to avoid Persecution, and *Saul's* zealous Rage, retired further off; but wherever they wander'd, they neglected no Part of their Duty, but publish'd the glad Tidings of the Gospel where-ever they came. In the Number of those scatter'd Devotes, *Philip* the Deacon was eminent, who going from *Judea* to *Samaria*, preached the Gospel at *Sebaste*, a City thereof; and all the City being convinc'd by the Miracles which *Philip* wrought, were perswaded to receive the Faith of Christ; for out of many that were possess'd he cast Devils, who at their coming out loudly proclaim'd the Irresistableness of the Power by which they were driven out. But before this Preaching and Miracles of *Philip*, there had been in this City one *Simon* a Magician, who had puzzled and amused the People with his Necromantic Tricks and Performances; and having for a long time impos'd on their Weakness by these Arts, he had acquired the Name of Divine. But when *Philip*, by preaching the Christian Faith, and by doing far greater Miracles, had converted them to Christianity, they all came in as Profelytes to the Gospel, and received Baptism of him; and even *Simon* himself, when he saw the Miracles which *Philip* wrought, was convinc'd and baptiz'd by *Philip*.

These wonderful Proceedings, and happy Success of *Philip* were soon remitted to the Apostles at *Jerusalem*; who taking into consideration, that *Philip* being only a Deacon had no further Power than to teach and baptize, they immediately dispatch *Peter* and *John* with his Assistance, who upon their Arrival pray for the confirming what was done, for *Philip* could not make the necessary Provisions for the Continuance of the Church, having only preach'd and baptiz'd them with that Baptism which Christ commanded to be used, That in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. There

*Peter* and *John* confirm'd and ordain'd them Elders or Bishops in all their Cities, to rule them in the Faith; in the doing which, they us'd that Ceremony known among the *Jews*, *Dent.* 34. 9. Imposition of Hands; by which was bestow'd on them the Gift of the Holy Ghost, as working of Miracles, speaking Languages, and the like. *Simon* the Sorcerer seeing those miraculous Effects follow the Apostles Imposition of Hands, offer'd to give them Money, if they would convey this powerful Gift to him. But *Peter* in a holy Indignation resenting the Affront offer'd to the sacred Function, refusing his Money, tells him, "I will not receive thy Money, and thy profane Offer of it will call for Mischiefs on thee, for thinking so meanly of this Apostolical Privilege bestowed on us by Christ, which is not to be purchased like other earthly Commodities with the Price of Money: Thou shalt never have any Part of this divine Privilege, nor Right of dispensing or administering these holy Things; for thy Design in desiring these Gifts is to advance thy own Credit and Esteem among Men, and not to enlarge the Kingdom of Christ. Repent therefore, and humble thy self before God for this wicked and impious Proposal, and humbly beseech him to pardon thee; (for it is not impossible but it may yet be obtain'd) for I perceive that thou art in a Condition poisonous to thy self, and hateful to God." *Simon* being convinced of his wicked Error, and nearly affected with the Horror of his Guilt, implored the Prayers of the Apostles to God for him to pardon him this Wickedness, and to avert those Punishments and Judgments which they seem'd to foretel would fall upon him.

The Apostles having testified what *Philip* had done, and confirm'd those in the Faith who were baptized by *Philip*, return'd to *Jerusalem*; and as they went preached the Gospel to all Parts of *Samaria*, where *Philip* had not preach'd, and had good Success in it: But *Philip* receives particular Orders from Heaven brought by an Angel, who commands him to travel to the South. *Philip* obeys the heavenly Vision, and being on the way,



at a little distance spies a Chariot with a splendid Retinue, which belonged to and attended the 'Treasure of Candace Queen of *Ethiopia*, who being a (q) Profelyte of the *Jewish* Religion, one of the lower sort, had been at *Jerusalem*, to worship the God of *Israel*. While *Philip* was looking on, the Spirit of God directed him to go near to the Chariot, and speak to him that rode in it. *Philip* obeys, and approaching the Chariot, heard him reading the Prophecy of *Isaias*; and asking him whether he understood what he read, the *Treasure* told him he was at a loss, and desired his Instruction. Whereupon *Philip* gets into the Chariot. The Place of Scripture that puzzled the *Ethiopian* was this: *He was led as a Sheep to the Slaughter, and like a Lamb dumb before the Shearer he opened not his Mouth; in his Humiliation his Judgment was taken away, and who shall declare his Generation? For his Life was taken from the Earth.* The Text he desires *Philip* to explain, demanding, whether the Prophet spake this of himself, or of some other Person? Then *Philip* began at this Text, and from thence preach'd Jesus to him. Upon which the *Ethiopian* was converted, and desir'd to be baptized; and opportunely spying a Pool of Water near the Road, he instantly presses *Philip* to perform that Office; who tells him he was ready to do it, provided he was sincere: Upon which the other replied, I stedfastly believe these Prophecies of the *Messias* to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and that he is the Son of God. Then both alighted from the Chariot and went into the Water, where *Philip* baptiz'd him; and as soon as they were come out of the Water, the Spirit of God (an Angel) took *Philip* out of sight, and the *Ethiopian* was left alone; who returning to his Chariot went with Joy to his own Country; but the Angel convey'd *Philip* to *Azotus*, who all the way he went preached the Gospel till he came to *Cæsarea*.

Notwithstanding this Dispersion of the Disciples Persecution still raged against the Faithful, wherever they lay in their Enemies Way. But none so eminent

(q) *Profelyte*. A Profelyte is one, that being a Gentile by Birth and Religion, comes over to the *Jewish* Religion in whole, or in part.



ACTS CHAP. IX. As Saul journey'd he came<sup>44</sup>  
near Damascus: Suddenly a light shined from Heaven.



ACTS 9. Verse 3. 4. 5. 244

*And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice  
saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou  
ME? And he said Who art thou LORD?*

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for Zeal and Cruelty as *Saul*, whose bloody Mind, not satiated with *Stephen's* Death, pushes him upon the utmost Severities against the Christians, whom he threatens with nothing less than Prisons and Death. And to qualify himself the more for the Execution of this bloody Purpose, he goes to the High-Priest to enlarge his Commission. The *Sanhedrin*, overjoy'd at the Forwardness of this furious Instrument, immediately dispatch him away with Power to seize all Christians, and send them bound to *Jerusalem* to be try'd; *Jerusalem* being the Metropolis of *Syria* as well as *Judea*. This Commission was highly pleasing to *Saul's* cruel Spirit, who immediately posts to *Damascus* to put it in Practice; but whilst he was on the Road entertaining himself with the bloody Prospect, God, in Mercy to him, and those he went to persecute, takes him off from his wicked Purposes: A bright shining Cloud incompass'd him, which struck him with great Terror, as at the presence of God, who he knew was wont thus to exhibit himself. This threw him prostrate on the Ground, where as he lay, a sudden Clap of Thunder invades his Ears, and a Voice out of it saying to him, *Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?* This increas'd his amazement, and being desirous to know the Meaning of this Vision, he asks, *Who art thou, Lord?* The Voice reply'd, I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest; it is in vain for thee to resist the Decrees of Providence; therefore be no longer refractory, but obey the Commands that shall be given thee. At this *Saul*, full of Fear and Trembling, cry'd out, Lord instruct me, what thou wouldst have me do. The Voice return'd, Go to *Damascus*, and there thou shalt know my Will. The Attendants were struck dumb with Fear and Amazement, wondering that they should hear a Voice, but see no Man speaking: Therefore taking up *Saul*, they led him to the City, where in a sort of Trance or Ecstasy he continued blind three Days, without receiving any Sustenance. At the Time of this wonderful Transaction there was at *Damascus* a certain Disciple named *Ananias*, to whom the Spirit of God

in a Vision gave this Charge: Go into the straight Street, and inquire at the House of one *Judas* for *Saul* of *Tarsus*, for I have revealed to him in his Ecstasy that he shall recover his Sight by Imposition of Hands. But *Ananias* well knowing *Saul's* furious Temper, the Fame of which had been too sensibly known in those Parts, expostulates with the Vision for putting him on so dangerous an Attempt on a known and declared Enemy of the Saints. But the Spirit says, Obey, for I have chosen him a special Instrument for the Service of my Church, to preach my Name and the Gospel, not only to the *Jews*, but to the *Gentiles*: And as fierce as he hath been against the Christian Faith, he shall suffer very heavy Pressures, labour most abundantly in the Propagation of it, and at last lay down his Life for it. *Ananias* obeys, and coming to the House where *Saul* was, he salutes him with this congratulatory Speech: *Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, that appeared to thee on thy Way to Damascus, hath commissioned me not only to restore thy Sight, but to indow thee with the Gifts and Graces of the Holy Ghost, to qualify thee for the Service of his Church, to which thou art now consecrated.* *Saul* with Joy receives this *Supersedeas* of the *Sanhedrin's* Commission by a divine Command, and recovering his Sight was immediately baptized, and listed into the Number of the Faithful. Then taking convenient Sustenance to regain and repair his Strength, weaken'd with long Fasting, he soon recover'd, and tarried some time with the Disciples at *Damascus*: After which he went into (r) *Arabia*, and from thence return'd to *Damascus*, where, by virtue of his Call from Heaven, and Christ's Message to him by *Ananias*, he presently set about preaching the Gospel in the *Jewish* Synagogues and proclaimed that Christ was the true Messiah, the

(r) *Arabia*. St. Luke in the Acts of the Apostles does not mention St. Paul's going into *Arabia*, he being not acquainted with him then, and consequently not accompanying him as he did in most of his other Travels. But St. Paul in his Epistle to the *Galatians*, c. 1. 17. makes this out very plain; for there he says, that upon his Conversion he did not

go immediately to Jerusalem to the Apostles that were instated in that Office before him; but without applying himself to any other, he presently after his Mission from Christ went into *Arabia*, and after return'd again to *Damascus*, and there preach'd Christ in their Synagogues, Acts 9. 19, 20.

eternal Son of God. This sudden Change of *Saul* greatly surpriz'd the People of *Damascus*, who remembering that he had solately been concern'd in the Death *Stephen*, a violent Persecuter of the Christians, and but just before was sent from the *Sanhedrin* with a special Commission to that purpose, could scarce believe him sincere. But *Saul* every Day increas'd in spiritual Strength, and was soon able to repel all the *Jews* Arguments, inforcing his own with such Evidence, that they were not able to deny the Proofs he gave of *Jesus* being the *Messias*. This Christian Courage and spiritual Freedom of *Saul*, which baffled the *Jews* in all their Disputes, so exasperated them, that they entered into a Conspiracy against him, resolving to destroy him; but having timely notice, he prevented their Malice by an honest Stratagem: For the Disciples understanding that the *Jews* kept a constant Guard at the Gates of the City, and that it was impossible to convey him from thence by Day-light, took the Opportunity of the Darknefs of the Night, and let him down the Wall in a Basket, by which means he escaped to *Jerusalem*. Where, when he offer'd himself to the Conversation of the Faithful, they were afraid to associate with him upon the account of his former Character; but *Barnabas* introducing him to the Apostles, vouches for his Sincerity, declaring the Manner of his miraculous Conversion, and that in Confirmation of his Mission, which he in a special manner had received from the Lord, he had openly preached at *Damascus* the Gospel of Christ. Upon this Assurance he was received by the Apostles, and imployed in the Work of his sacred Calling, to which, by his Christian Courage and great Abilities, he was a bright Ornament. But here likewise, as before at *Damascus*, signalizing himself in all Disputes with the *Jews* that understood *Greek*, they were so enraged at his pious Zeal, that they attempt his Life; which the Brethren understanding, they convey him from *Jerusalem* to *Cæsarea*, and thence to *Tarsus*, the Place of his Birth.



Now all the Christian Assemblies through *Judea*, *Galilee*, and *Samaria*, were permitted the quiet Use of their Religion, daily improving and increasing, and superstructing upon that Foundation the pure and pious Practices of all Christian Virtues. And as *Peter* went his Perambulation through all those Churches, he went to visit the *Jewish* Christians that were at *Lydda*, where he wrought a miraculous Cure upon *Aeneas*, who had been afflicted eight Years with the Palsy, and was not able to help himself. Upon which Miracle the Inhabitants of *Lydda* and *Saron* generally received the Faith. At this time there was at *Joppa* a Woman that had received the Faith, whose Name was *Tabitha* or *Dorcas*, who by extraordinary Industry and Labour in her Profession and Way of Employment was capable and ready to do all good Offices of Charity and Liberality to the necessitous, which she never fail'd to do. And thus full of good Works she was taken sick and died. Having therefore by way of Preparation for her Interment washed her Body, according to their Custom of Burying, they laid her in an upper Room. Now *Lydda* being near *Joppa*, the Disciples sent Messengers to *Peter* intreating his Presence among them; and when he came to *Joppa* they shewed him into the Room where *Tabitha* was laid out, and the poor Widow who had been clothed by her Christian Bounty came weeping to *Peter*, and shewed him the Inner and Upper Garments which she either made her self, or caused to be made for them, as Monuments of her Charity. Then *Peter*, ordering the Company to withdraw, kneeled down and prayed, and turning to the Body said, *Tabitha, arise*. Upon which, opening her Eyes she sat up; and *Peter* giving her his Hand help'd her up, and presented her alive to her Friends that lamented her Loss. The Fame of this Miracle soon spread through the Place, and Multitudes were thereupon converted to the Faith, being no longer able to resist such Evidences and Convictions of the Truth of the Gospel. To finish this great Work therefore, *Peter*

continued

continued some time at *Joppa*, taking up his Residence in the House of one *Simon* a Tanner.

Upon the Borders of *Palestine*, about seventy Miles from *Jerusalem*, stood the stately City of *Cæsarea*, where the Romans kept a Garison to awe the conquered *Jews*, Part of which was called the *Italian Band*, and commanded by one *Cornelius*; who was a devout Profelyte of the *Jews*, that worshipp'd the true God, and his Family led by his pious Example did the same; besides, to render himself dearer to God, he was very charitable to the Poor, and constant at Prayer. And as he was one Day, about three in the Afternoon, at his religious Exercise, he saw an Angel, who called him by his Name. But when he discerned it to be a Message from God, in great Fear and Astonishment he said, *Lord, what is thy Pleasure?* To which the Angel gives this comfortable Reply, "Thy Prayers and many Works of Charity are accepted by God as a special Sacrifice, and have brought down a Blessing upon thee. Now send away to *Joppa*, and at the House of one *Simon* a Tanner, near the Sea-side, inquire for *Simon*, whose Surname is *Peter*, who shall instruct thee in the Knowledge of the Mercy designed thee, and give thee Directions for thy whole future Life." The Angel being gone, *Cornelius* calls two of his menial Servants, and a Soldier who was a Profelyte, and lived continually with him; whom when he had acquainted with the whole matter of the Vision, he sent to *Joppa*. The next Day, whilst these Men were on the Road, and not far from *Joppa*, about Noon *Peter* went up to the Roof of the House (a Place commodious for Devotion) to pray; and being fasting would not eat; but he fell into a Trance, and in a Vision seemed to see Heaven opened, and a great Cloth tied at the four Corners, which containing all Sorts of Creatures, clean and unclean, denoting the *Jews* and Gentiles together, was let down to the Earth, and there came a Voice to *Peter*, saying, *Rise, kill and eat.* But *Peter* refused, thinking himself bound to eat nothing that was forbidden by the Law, concerning Things clean

clean and unclean. But the Voice spoke to him a second time, telling him God had taken away those Interdicts concerning Meats; and therefore when God had made no Distinction, he ought not to make any. After three Admonitions the Cloth was taken up into Heaven, and *Peter* was left in great Perplexity, arguing with himself the Meaning of this Vision: But of himself he could not make it out; and therefore while he labour'd under this doubtful Anxiety, the Men that were sent from *Cornelius* were just come to *Simon's* House, and stood at the Gate, inquiring for *Peter*; at which instant of Time it was revealed to *Peter* by divine Afflation, that three Men inquired for him, and that he must go along with them, making no question upon those *Jewish* Scruples of the Unlawfulness of conversing with the *Gentiles*. *Peter* straightway obeys the heavenly Admonition, and goes down to the Men, demanding the Cause of their Coming; who tell him That *Cornelius*, a Profelyte of the *Jews*, and generally well esteemed by them, had seen a Vision, and therein was commanded by an Angel of God to send for him to come to him, that he might hear something of great Moment from him. Then inviting them into the House he entertained them that Night, and the next Morning *Peter* went from *Joppa* attended with several of the Brethren to *Cæsarea*, where they the next Day arrived; and *Cornelius*, to shew the greater respect to his long'd-for Guest, had invited his Kindred and Friends to join with him in the Reception. *Peter* and his Company being arrived at *Cæsarea*, *Cornelius* meets him at his Door, and considering him as an Angel immediately sent from Heaven, he behaves himself with the greatest Humility, paying him Adoration to his Feet. But *Peter* would not permit this Expression from him, telling him, as he raised him from the Ground that himself was not more than a Man, tho' God had employed him on this Errand. Then addressing himself to the Company, he thus began: "Ye all know that the Laws of the *Jewish* Religion permit not a *Jew* to converse with a *Gentile*; but God hath by  
 " Vision

ACTS CHAP. X.  
Cornelius falls down at Peters feet

45



ACTS 10. Verse 15. <sup>250.</sup>

*And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.*

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Vision revealed to me that I should not make any Difference between *Jews* and *Gentiles*. Therefore I came to you without Scruple, as soon as I was sent for: I desire therefore to know the Cause of your sending for me?" *Cornelius*, who was nearest concern'd in this great Affair, answers for the Company: Four Days since I was fasting until this Time of the Day, and at three of the Clock retiring to Prayer, an Angel appeared to me in the Shape of a Man in bright Apparel, and said, *Cornelius, thy Prayer is heard, and thy Alms recorded in the Book of Heaven; send therefore to Joppa, and inquire at Simon the Tanner's for Peter, who when he cometh shall instruct thee what to do.* In obedience to the divine Decree I sent to thee, and thus far all Things in the Vision are fulfilled. It only now remains that thou instruct us further in the Will of God, how we shall behave our selves; for to that end are we now met together." Then *Peter* laying aside all personal Distinctions and Prerogatives, makes the following Improvement of the former Vision: "I am throughly persuaded, O my Brethren, that God is no Respector of Persons; but of what Nation soever a Man be, if he undertake the Service of the true God, and exercise Works of Mercy and Devotion, he shall certainly be accepted by God, and rewarded with higher Revelations and Graces from him. The Doctrine which had been preached through all *Judea*, and which was first preached in *Galilee*, after *John's* Preaching and Baptizing, concerning *Jesus of Nazareth*, is no strange thing to you; how by the Testimony of the Holy Ghost descending on him, and by the Power of working Miracles, God authorized him; and accordingly he hath executed his Office, in calling to Repentance, curing Diseases, and casting out Devils, by the Power of God, which was present with him. Of all which wonderful Things performed by him we are Witnesses, and likewise of his Crucifixion and Resurrection, that great Conquest over Death. But this Manifestation was not immediately made to all the *Jews*, but only

" to

" to his Disciples, whom God had inclin'd to leave all  
 " and follow Christ ; and as he had chosen them to be  
 " Witnesses of all that Christ did when he was living,  
 " so he ordain'd them Witnesses of his Resurrection,  
 " giving them the Honour of eating and drinking with  
 " him after he rose from the Dead. And this God  
 " hath appointed us to publish, and to proclaim to all  
 " the World, that this crucified Christ is raised to  
 " God's Right-Hand, to be Judge of all Men. This  
 " is he, of whom all the Prophets foretold, that in him  
 " God would make a new Covenant with Mankind,  
 " of which this is the Sum, That although Men were  
 " Sinners, yet upon receiving him, and imbracing his  
 " Doctrine, they should by their Prayers offered to  
 " God in his Name obtain Pardon." Whilst *Peter* was  
 thus speaking, the Holy Ghost came down upon the  
 whole Audience, and inspired them with Gifts and  
 Graces, fitting them for several Conditions in the  
 Church : Which was a wonderful Confirmation of the  
 preceding Visions, and that Part of *Peter's* Discourse  
 concerning the taking off the Distinction of Prerogative  
 between the *Jews* and *Gentiles*. And this more  
 particularly affected the *Jews* that had received the Gospel,  
 who seeing the Holy Ghost equally inspiring this  
 Assembly were convinced, and praised God for this  
 impartial Distribution of his Mercies. Then *Peter*, by  
 way of Application of what he had before preached  
 to this happy Congregation, says, " There is no Scruple  
 " to be made of receiving these into the Freedom  
 " of the Gospel, although they be *Gentiles*, since God  
 " by the immediate Descent of the Holy Ghost hath  
 " allowed them." Upon which they were all baptized  
 in the Name of the Blessed Trinity ; *Peter* at their earnest  
 Request tarrying some time with them.

Before *Peter's* Return from *Joppa* to *Cæsarea*, the Apostles and Disciples at *Jerusalem* had heard that the  
 People of other Countries, who were not *Jews*, had  
 imbraced the Doctrine of Christ. And at *Peter's* coming  
 to *Jerusalem*, the *Jewish* Christians, that still kept  
 constant to the Observation of the *Mosaical* Law

Circumcision, of abstaining from unclean Things, and conversing with Men of any other Nation, accused *Peter* of too much Freedom in conversing with those who were not circumcised, and eating with them, which according to the Law of the *Jews*, was positively forbid. But *Peter* made his Apology, by giving them an exact Account of the whole Proceeding, with the Occasion of it; and at last draws this Conclusion from it:

“ Since God hath been pleased to allow these *Gentiles* the same Privileges with us who have been his constant Disciples, and since the Gift of the Holy Ghost, which is the Solemnity of our Mission and Apostleship, hath been likewise imparted to them, it must in me have been direct Disobedience to God, if I had declined receiving them into the Church, or refused to preach to and converse with them.” With this Account of *Peter*’s they were highly satisfied, and blessed God, who had communicated the same Mercy to the *Gentiles* which he had done to the *Jews*. But still the Disciples that were dispers’d upon the Persecution and Death of *Stephen*, preach’d the Gospel to the *Jews* only.

After this the Apostles sent *Barnabas*, a pious Man, endued with many excellent Gifts, to *Antioch*, where being highly pleased with the good Success the Gospel had been preached, advised them to continue steadfast to the Faith of Christ; and going from thence to *Tarsus* to find out *Saul*, they both returned to *Antioch*, where for the Space of a Year they resorted to the Place of publick Assemblies, instructing and confirming all that came. And those that had received the Faith of Christ being before called *Nazarites* or *Galileans*, were first of all in *Antioch* styled *Christians*.

About this Time some of the chief Men, that had the Gift of Prophecy, came by the Appointment of the Church at *Jerusalem* to *Antioch*; and one of them named *Agabus*, by Revelation from the Spirit of God, foretold, there should shortly be a very great Famine through the whole World, which accordingly came to pass in the Reign of the Emperor *Claudius*; upon which the Christians in all Places, according to their Abilities,

ties, resolved to send Relief to the Christians in Judea in this time of Dearth, and sent it to be distributed to them that were in Want. This Liberality from other Parts of the Church was by *Saul* and *Barnabas* brought and put into the Hands of the (s) Bishops of Judea.

About this Time being the forty third Year of Christ's *Agrippa*, Grandson to *Herod* the Great, having obtained great Part of his Grandfather's Dominions, and calling himself by his Name, resolved to persecute the Christians, especially the Apostles at *Jerusalem*, only to gratify the *Jews*. And in this Persecution *James* the Apostle, the Son of *Zebedee*, was beheaded by *Herod's* Command. Who seeing this cruel Fact pleased

(s) *Bishops*. The Word in the *Acts*, *Ch. 11. v. 30.* is *Presbyteroi*, *Elders*. It is here first met with in the Christian Church, and therefore will require explaining. Among the *Greeks* the Word *Elders* was used for Rulers and Old Men: Among the *Hebrews* it signified the same, denoting Dignity and Pre-ferment in the Old Testament. Thus *Eli-zer*, *Abraham's* Steward, is in *Gen. 24. 2.* called the *Elder* of his House. So the *Elders* of *Pharaoh's* House, *Gen. 50. 7.* are the Administrators of his House, and all *Egypt*. *Elders* likewise were one of the three Orders of the *Sanhedrin*, which consisted of *Elders*, *Scribes* and *Chief Priests*. And though this Title has been extended to a second Order in the Church, and is now only in use for them under the Name of *Presbyters*, yet in the Scripture-Times it belonged principally, if not only, to Bishops, there being no Evidence that any of that second Order were then instituted, tho soon after, before the writing of *Ignatius's* Epistles, there were such instituted in all Churches. Of these first Apostolical Times, the Testimony of *Clement Romanus*, in *Epist. 1. ad Corinth.* is observable, *Christ was sent from God, and the Apostles from Christ, and they went preaching the Gospel. They therefore preaching in the Cities and Countries, constituted their first Converts into Bishops and Deacons of those that should afterwards believe.*

Agreeable to this is that of *Epiphanius*, l. 3. c. 1. *When need required Bishops were constituted; but whilst there was no Multitude of Christians, there*

*were no Presbyters constituted (upon modern Use of that Word) but they constituted themselves with a Bishop in every Place, and his Deacons attended and minister to him. Accordingly St. Paul gives Direction to Bishop Timothy for the ordaining of Officers in the Church; he names Bishops and Deacons, but no second Order between them 1 Tim. 3. 2, 8, and so to Titus, Tit. 1. & 2. 1. And so in the Church of Jerusalem it is clear by Story, that James the Brother of our Lord, being soon after Christ's Ascension constituted Bishop of Jerusalem, the Deacons are first that were added to him, Acts 6. From whence it will be sufficiently clear'd, that the Presbyteroi, or Elders here, are the Bishops of the several Churches or Congregations of Converts in Judea to whose Care and Management the Collection of Alms during the Famine was trusted. And that this was an ancient Custom is plain from the forty second Apostolick Canon, which says, The Bishop shall have the Goods of the Church in his Power, &c. But still to prove that by Elders in these Times were meant Bishops, St. Chrysostom, in 1 Tim. 4. Homil. 13. By Eldership he meant not (those that in his Days were called Presbyters, but Bishops; for Presbyters did not ordain Bishops: and therefore St. Peter, 1 Pet. 5. 1. and St. James 2 John 1. & 3 John 1. calling themselves Elders, it can be meant of no other than Bishops, because they ordained Bishops themselves, which Thing Presbyters could not do.*



# Book VII. *the* APOSTLES. 255

the bloody *Jews*, was resolved to prosecute this barbarous Way of Proceeding, and apprehended *Peter* also, about the time of the *Jews* Passover: Having imprisoned him he set a Guard of sixteen Soldiers over him, intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the *Jews*, and if they thought fit, to put him to Death. During *Peter's* Confinement the Church fail'd not to offer up their constant Prayers for his Preservation. And the Night before *Herod* intended to bring him to the Assembly, to have their Suffrage to condemn him, whilst *Peter* was sleeping, more securely under the Protection of Heaven than his double Chains and Guard, an Angel descended in a bright Cloud, which illuminated the Prison, and touching his Side, bid him rise. Upon which he waked, and found his fettered Limbs at liberty. Then the Angel bids him dress himself, and follow him. *Peter* in this joyful Disorder obeys, not knowing what was really done, but thought he had been in a Dream or Trance. The Prison being in the Suburbs, they passed the first and second Wards, where watch was kept every Night without the Gates; and at last they came to the Iron-Gate that led to the City, which opening to them of its own Accord they passed through it; and when they had gone through it into the Street, the heavenly Guide having carried his sacred Charge out of danger of the Guards disappeared, leaving *Peter* alone. By this time *Peter* was perfectly awake, and considering what had happen'd, he said to himself, *Now I am satisfied that God hath sent his Angel to deliver me from the Hands of Herod, and from the Expectation of the Jews.* And as he was ruminating on his miraculous Escape, he came to the House of *Mary*, a Place where many Christians at this time of Night met to pray, and were then performing their Devotions. *Peter* knocking at the Door, a Damsel named *Rhoda* came to know who it was, and hearing *Peter* answer, she, over-joy'd to hear the Voice of him whom she thought in Prison, runs into the House, and acquaints the Company that *Peter* was at the Door. They tell her she was mad: But she



she persisted in her first Report. Then they being moved with her constant affirming of it, and yet being confident that *Peter* was in Prison, thought she affirmed it from not knowing *Peter's* Voice, but from hearing mention of *Peter's* Name; and thereupon concluded, that though *Peter* himself could not be there, yet there was some (t) Messenger sent from him, who might mention his Name. But whilst they were thus debating among themselves, *Peter* continued knocking at the Door; and when they let him in, they were mightily surpriz'd to see him in Person. But lest their Joy might prove mischievous, and discover his Escape to the Neighbourhood, he beckon'd to them with his Hand to be silent, whilst he told them how wonderfully God had delivered him out of the Hands of his Enemies; And to shew the just Deference that was due to the Bishop of the Place, he bid them go and acquaint *James* with this good News, that it might be communicated to the rest of the Brethren; and immediately he parted from them, and went to a Place of greater Security, to avoid the Search he knew would of course be made among his Friends and Acquaintance; and therefore he went to *Cæsarea*, where he staid till the Noise of his Escape was over.

The next Morning, as soon as it was Day, the Soldiers missing their Prisoner were in the utmost Confusion, none being able to imagine which way he could escape, of which *Herod* having notice, he sends for the Guards, and strictly examin'd them: but they giving no Account of the matter, he commands them to be put to Death, imputing the Escape to their Connivance or Neglect.

At this time there was some Misunderstanding between *Herod* and the Inhabitants of *Tyre* and *Sidon*, against whom he was about to declare war. But the

(t) Messenger. The Word *Angel*, which by way of Excellence is put to denote the immortal Spirits attending on God, doth primarily, and in the common Use, signify a Messenger, and from the use only denotes those Spirits, because they are Messengers of God, employed by him: And consequently, 'tis as certain that it may signify here no

more than a Messenger from St. Peter, so it doth *Mat.* 11. 10. *Mark* 1. 2. *Luke* 7. 27, &c. And so the Angels of the Churches were not those immortal Spirits, *Rev.* 1. 19. but as the Apostles were Messengers to several Churches, so were to do according to their Appointment.

dread

dreading his Power, made interest to *Blastus*, *Herod's* Chamberlain, to intercede for them, and make up the matter, for they could not subsist without his Favour. Upon this occasion *Herod* appointed a Day to hear and determine the Business; and being dressed in his Royal Robes, and seated on his Throne, he made a Speech to them. The fawning Croud thinking to ingratiate themselves, and please the Tyrant's Pride with flattering Applause, rend the Sky with their noisy Shouts, crying out, *He speaks more like a God than a Man.* *Herod* with secret Pride and Vanity assumes that Praise to himself which belong'd only to God. This accumulative Sin of Blasphemy added to his Persecuting, and other Sins, rendered him ripe for divine Vengeance, which immediately seizing him with inexpressible Torment in his Bowels, terminates in a swift Mortification, and depriv'd him of Life: A just Reward for affecting the nauseous blasphemous Flattery of the clamorous undiscerning Populace.

This Tyrant thus remov'd, the Gospel flourish'd and increased, new Converts daily thronging to be admitted to the Faith: And *Barnabas* and *Saul* having discharg'd their Trust in carrying the necessary Provision appointed for the Relief of the poor Christians at *Jerusalem*, and other Parts of *Judea*, return'd from thence to *Antioch*, taking with them *John*, surnamed *Mark*.

In that part of the Church which was at *Antioch* there were several eminent Persons of the Churches of *Syria*, who having appointed a solemn Fast, as they were performing their Office of Prayer to God, the Holy Spirit by some Afflation or Revelation commanded them to consecrate *Barnabas* and *Saul* to the Apostleship, to which God had already design'd them. In order to which they appointed another solemn Day of Fasting and Prayer, and by Imposition of Hands ordain'd them to the Work for which God had appointed them. Having thus received their Commission of the Holy Ghost by the immediate Appointment of God himself, they set out for *Seleucia*, and from thence sail'd to *Cyprus*, where in the City of *Salamis* they publicly preach'd the Gospel in the Synagogues of the *Jews*,  
 [Vol. 3.] S having

having *John* surnamed *Mark* with them, whom they sent on any part of their Charge whither themselves could not go. From *Salamis* they travell'd through the Isle to *Paphos*, another City of *Cyprus*, where the Temple of *Venus* was. And here they met with *Barjesus* the (v) Sorcerer, who being intimate with *Sergius Paulus* the Proconsul, a prudent virtuous Man, and inclinable to receive the Faith, did all he could to divert him from the Conversation of these two Apostles. But (w) *Paul*, being in an extraordinary manner instigated by the Spirit of God, in a holy Rage, casting his Eyes on *Barjesus*, thus expressed his Abhorrence, 'O thou vile Sorcerer! like the Devil, by whom thou workest, thou art an Enemy to all Goodness; wilt thou persist in Sorcery in defiance of the Faith of Christ, which comes armed with a much greater Power of Miracles than those to which thou falsely pretendest? Thou shalt soon see the Vengeance of Heaven upon thy cursed self; for thou that perversly holdest out against the Light of the Gospel shalt lose thy Sight, which by the immediate Power of God shall be taken from thee for some time.' And immediately he was struck blind, imploring the Aid of some kind Hand to lead him. This Act of miraculous Blindness upon the Sorcerer convinced the Proconsul, and converted him to the Faith.

Having perform'd great Things, and converted many here, he with his Company, except *John*, who return'd to *Jerusalem*, went by Sea from *Paphos* to *Perga* in *Pamphylia*, and from thence to *Antioch* in *Pisidia*, where on a Sabbath-Day going into a Synagogue, they sat down; and after the Lessons, one out of the Law the other out of the Prophets, it being the Custom for

(v) *Sorcerer*. The Word *Elymas* in the *Arabian* Language signifies knowing and skilful, and is applied to those that know Things divine and human. So the Word *Magos*, with the *Greeks*, is the Title of their Wise-Menskill'd in the secret Learning, and whom we originally call *Magicians*.

(w) *Paul*. There are several Accounts of *Saul's* two Names: but the most probable of them is that of *Origen*,

in the Preface of the Epistle to the *Romanians*; where he saith, That *Saul* being a Jew born in a City of the *Romanians* had at his Circumcision two Names, *Saul* a Jewish, and *Paul* a *Roman* Name. And this is agreeable to the Form of Speech in *Acts* 13. 9. *Saul*, who also is *Paul*, noting him to have had two Names at once, and not to have changed one for the other.

the *Jewish* Doctors to expound and apply some Part of the Scripture for the Instruction of the People, the chief Persons of the Assembly who were present sent to *Paul* and his Companions, to know whether they were prepared for that purpose. Whereupon *Paul* laying hold of this Opportunity, and beckoning with his hand for silence, thus address'd himself to the Congregation: Attend ye Men of *Israel*, and all you that fear God: For it was your God, the God of *Israel*, that chose *Abraham*, and promis'd to bless and multiply his Seed, and accordingly perform'd it, increasing them to a very great Number, even at a time when they were Slaves in a strange Land, from which he in a miraculous manner deliver'd them: And for forty Years, though they murmur'd and rebell'd against him, treated them with much Tendernefs and paternal Care, destroying seven Nations in the Land of *Canaan*, to make room for them. After that, for the Space of four hundred Years, he furnish'd them with able and valiant Generals to fight their Battels; which sort of Government lasted till *Samuel's* time, who being a Prophet ruled them in God's Name and Stead for a while: Of whose peaceful happy Reign being weary, they desired a King to march before them; upon which God gave them *Saul* the Son of *Kish*, who govern'd them two and forty Years: And when God in his Displeasure had remov'd him, he gave them *David* to be their King, who God promis'd should rule his People after his own Will. From this Man's Posterity, as he promis'd, did *Jesus* descend, appointed by God to be the Law-giver and Judge of the World, to rule and govern all, and fight their Battles against Sin and Satan. And as *John* preached Repentance in order to Baptism, he renounc'd being the Messias, telling them he was but his Forerunner, and that he should shortly come himself and preach amongst them; and that for his own part he was not worthy to be one of his Disciples. And now, Brethren and Countrymen, this Gospel, which Christ brought into the World, is sent to be proclaim'd and made known to



' you. For the *Sanhedrin* and People of *Jerusalem* that  
 ' then was, notwithstanding the Prophecies which  
 ' foretold his Coming, the many Miracles he wrought,  
 ' and the general Good he did among them, adjudg-  
 ' ed him to Death, and so in some manner fulfilled the  
 ' Prophecies which they would not then understand.  
 ' And though he was perfectly innocent, no capital  
 ' Accusation being brought against him, yet by Clamours  
 ' and Threatnings they never ceased importuning  
 ' *Pilate* till they crucified him. And when they  
 ' had fulfilled the Scripture concerning him, by exert-  
 ' ing their Malice thus against him, they took him  
 ' from the Cross, and burying him in a Sepulchre, they  
 ' set a Watch to guard it, and prevent his Resurrection.  
 ' But after all their Vigilance God raised him from the  
 ' Dead. Forty Days after this he continued upon  
 ' Earth, and was seen several times to converse with  
 ' his Disciples, and others, who from the Beginning  
 ' had attended on him, and who do now testify the  
 ' Truth of all these Things to the *Jews*. And the Sub-  
 ' ject of this Gospel which we preach to you, is the  
 ' Promise made to our Fathers, which God hath now  
 ' fulfilled in raising Jesus from the Dead. Of which  
 ' also that in the second *Psalms* was a Prophecy, when  
 ' to *David*, after his Persecution it was said, *Thou art*  
 ' *my Son, this Day have I begotten thee*; that is, Set him  
 ' upon his Throne, and gave him the Title of greater  
 ' Dignity, which is the Title of a King. To the  
 ' same purpose also, that God should not only raise him  
 ' from the Dead, but also secure him never to die any  
 ' more, are those two other Prophecies; one of *Isaiah*  
 ' 55. 3. *I will give you the sure Mercies of David*: That  
 ' Expression of an everlasting Covenant, spoken lin-  
 ' rally to the People of *Israel*, that God would perpe-  
 ' tuate to them the Mercy promised to *David*, that  
 ' giving one of his Seed to sit on his Throne; but he  
 ' accommodated to Christ, that though he were cru-  
 ' cified, yet he should rise again, and never die any  
 ' more. And to this most clearly belongs that other  
 ' Prophecy of *David*, *Psalms* 16. 11. *Thou shalt not suffer*  
 ' *thine Holy One to see Corruption*.



ST MATTHEW CHAP. XXVI.<sup>46</sup>

Judas Iscariot received the thirty pieces of Silver.



ST MATTHEW 26. Verse 14. 15.<sup>260.</sup>

*Judas said unto them, what will ye give me  
and I will deliver him unto you? And they co-  
venanted with him for thirty pieces of Silver.*

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' *thine Holy one to see Corruption.* Which Words cannot  
 ' be applied personally to *David*, because he having  
 ' lived his Term of natural Life, died, and never rose  
 ' again, but his Body putrefied in the Earth. But he  
 ' in whom that Prophecy was compleatly fulfilled, be-  
 ' ing sent by God into the World and crucified, and by  
 ' the Power of God raised from the Dead, never putre-  
 ' fied at all, but ascended into Heaven. This there-  
 ' fore, Brethren, is the Message which we bring, the  
 ' Gospel that we preach unto you is that of Christ the  
 ' Messias, who by his Death hath reconciled God to  
 ' all penitent Believers, and by his Life and Doctrine  
 ' taught us a way wherein we may obtain Pardon of  
 ' Sin, such as was not to be found in the *Mosaical* Law.  
 ' And whosoever receives and obeys him, shall certain-  
 ' ly be freed and purged from the Wrath of God, and  
 ' the Punishments which attend Sin in another World;  
 ' from which the Law of *Moses* could not, with all its  
 ' Ceremonies, Washings, and Sacrifices, purge or  
 ' cleanse any. You are therefore nearly concern'd to  
 ' take care, that by your obstinate rejecting this Way  
 ' of Salvation, now preach'd and confirm'd from Hea-  
 ' ven by God's raising Jesus from the Dead, you do not  
 ' bring a remarkable Destruction on your selves, in the  
 ' same manner as it fell on the *Jews* from the *Chaldeans*,  
 ' as a just Punishment for their despising the Mercies  
 ' of God, and going on impenitently in their Sins  
 ' against all the Messages sent them by the Prophets;  
 ' and by thus doing you will cause the Gospel to be re-  
 ' moved from you to the *Gentiles*: A Thing which will  
 ' soon come to pass, both in respect of your losing the  
 ' Benefit of having the Gospel preached to you, and of  
 ' the *Romans* coming and destroying you; though so  
 ' incredible to you, that ye will not believe it, when  
 ' the News of it shall come to you by them that see  
 ' it done.' *Paul* having ended his Sermon, as he was  
 ' going out of the Synagogue, the Profelytes, or pious  
 ' Persons that were of Heathen Birth, desired to hear  
 ' more of this Subject the next Sabbath.

The Assembly being broke up, several of the *Jews* that believed, and Profelytes followed *Paul* and *Barnabas*, who preached to them, and by way of Exhortation confirmed them in the Faith of the Gospel. The next Sabbath the People came in great Crouds to hear the Apostles, they being desired the Sabbath before to perſue their Discourse. With this Expectation then all that could came to the Synagogue, which ſeeming tumultuous, the chief of the *Jews* grew horribly intraged, not only oppoſing *Paul's* Preaching, but treating them with very ill Manners and foul Language.

But theſe Contumelies and Reproaches neither affected nor diſcourag'd the Chriſtian Heroes, who openly declar'd, That now they had perform'd their Charge from Chriſt, of preaching the Gospel firſt to the *Jews*, before they applied themſelves to the *Gentile* World. ' But, ſaid they, ſince ye *Jews* behave yourſelves ſo obſtinately and perverſly, that you become utterly unworthy and incapable of any Benefit by the Gospel, we are now by Appointment to leave you, and preach to the *Gentiles*. For this was the Direction of God, that Chriſt being preached to the *Jews* firſt, and being rejected by them, ſhould be preached to all other People of the World; and this is the Sum of that old Prophecy of *Iſaiah* 49. 6. ' *Thou ſhalt be for Salvation to the Ends of the Earth*. When the *Gentiles* heard, that this Pardon of Sins, and Salvation by Chriſt was allowed them, they rejoiced, and bleſſed the Name of God for this glorious Mercy of his revealed in the Gospel; and all they that had any Care or Thought of the Life to come, received the Doctrine of Chriſt thus preached to them. And the Gospel was preached and imbraced by all the Inhabitants there, except ſome of the *Jews*, who exasperated ſome of the Female Profelytes, thoſe of Quality, and the Governors of the City. But the Apoſtles ſeeing their Obſtinacy, uſed that fatal (x) Ceremony appointed by Chriſt in this Caſe, thereby foretelling the

(x) Ceremony. *Viz.* Shaking the Duſt off their Feet.

Deſtruction which would ſoon overtake them; and leaving them in this deſperate State, with Curſes hanging over their Heads, they went to *Iconium*. And all the Chriſtians were filled with ſpiritual Joy at what they ſaw thus performed, and went on zealouſly in their Duty.

Whiſt theſe two courageous Champions of the Church Militant preach'd the Goſpel at *Iconium*, they ſo powerfully convinc'd the People, that great Numbers both of *Jews* and *Gentiles* received the Faith. But the refractory unbelieving *Jews* incenſed the unconverted *Gentiles* againſt the Apoſtles and their Converts. And here they tarried ſome time, preaching the Goſpel in their publick Aſſemblies; and God added his Teſtimony to their Preaching, by inabling them to work Miracles. But notwithſtanding the mighty In-tereſt and Prevalence they had over the Minds of thoſe that were piously inclin'd, the Infidel *Jews* had made a great Party againſt them, inſomuch that the Multitude were divided, ſome holding with the *Jews*, and others with the Apoſtles. But the Apoſtles hearing there was an Attempt deſigned upon them, to prevent the Miſchief which ſo great a Concourſe of People muſt neceſſarily occaſion, and to preſerve themſelves from the Danger that threatned them, they privately withdrew from *Iconium*, and fled to *Lyſtra* and *Derbe*, Cities of *Lycaonia*, and to the Country thereabout; where they preached the Goſpel. And whiſt they were at *Lyſtra*, a happy Opportunity preſented itſelf for the Promulgation of the Goſpel, and the Converſion of a People wholly devoted to *Paganism*. A poor Cripple, lame from the Hour of his Birth, being one of the Apoſtles Auditors, is particularly obſerved by *Paul*, who looking earneſtly upon him, and either by his Words, overheard by *Paul*, or by his own diſcerning Spirit, perceiving that he believed they were able to cure him, *Paul* ſpeaking to him, loud enough to be heard by the reſt of the Aſſembly, ſaid, *Stand upright on thy Feet*; and by the bare ſpeaking of the Word his Feet were made ſo ſtrong, that he leaped



ed and walked. When the People saw what *Paul* had done, they concluded that this Miracle could not be done, but by the immediate Presence of a Deity; and therefore running about in great Confusion, they cryed out, That the Gods had put on human Shape, and come down among them. And *Barnabas* they look'd on as *Jupiter* the supreme God, and *Paul* as *Mercury*, the Interpreter of the Will of the Gods, because he spoke more than *Barnabas* did. But as soon as this Miracle came to the Ear of the Priest of *Jupiter*, the President of their City, they came to the Place where *Paul* and *Barnabas* were, bringing Oxen with Garlands on their Horns, intending to offer Sacrifice to them. But the Apostles abhorring such Blasphemy, rent their Garments in detestation of it, saying, *Sirs, Why do ye these Things? We are but Men our selves, subject to the Passions of human Nature like you, and are come to debort you from these Idolatries, and to persuade you to the Service of the living God, who made Heaven and Earth, and all Things therein; who in Times past left the Gentiles to their own blind Worship, but sufficiently at the same time evidenced himself to them by the great Blessings of temporal Things, in bestowing fruitful Seasons, the particular Acts of his Power and Bounty, to dissuade them from their Impieties. These Arguments, though so pressingly urg'd by the Apostles, could scarce restrain them from sacrificing. But whilst *Paul* and *Barnabas* were labouring the Recovery of these poor Idolaters, some infidel *Jews*, that came from *Antioch* and *Iconium*, fearing this People should be persuaded to the Truth, instigated the giddy Multitude to join with them against the Apostles, and easily prevailing, they in a tumultuous manner threw Stones at them, and *Paul* falling, they believ'd they had kill'd him; in which Condition they dragg'd him out of the City as a dead Man. But as the Christians there came piously to inter *Paul*, he rose up, and went privately with them into the City; and the next Day *Barnabas* and he went to *Derbe*, where having preached the Gospel, and converted many to the Faith, they return'd to *Lystra*, *Iconium* and *Antioch*, in which Places*

Places they confirm'd those they had before baptiz'd, and exhorted them to Perseverance, telling them that they must suffer many Tribulations before they could arrive at Heaven. And when they had consecrated Bishops for them in every Church, by Fasting, Prayer, and Imposition of Hands, they took their leave of them, recommending them to the good Providence of Christ, whose Faith they had received. And after they had pass'd through *Pisidia* they came to *Pamphylia*, and having preach'd the Gospel in *Perga*, they went to *Attalia*, and thence they came by Sea to *Antioch*, from whence they set out upon this holy Expedition. And when they had assembled the Church, they gave an Account of the Embassy, how it had pleased God, that by their preaching to the *Jews* in the *Gentile* Cities, many *Gentiles* had received the Faith. In which Place they abode with the Disciples a long time.

And here some converted *Jews*, who, though they believed in Christ, yet thinking themselves bound to the Observation of the whole *Mosaical* Law, told the *Gentile* Profelytes, that they must submit to the whole Law, and be circumcised, or else they could not be saved. This *Paul* and *Barnabas* oppos'd, and the Question being undecidable among themselves, they appeal'd to *Jerusalem*, the Metropolis of *Syria* and *Antioch*, and send *Paul* and *Barnabas* thither, for the Determination of this Question. And the Church bore the Charges of their Journey. As they pass'd through *Phenice* and *Samarina*, they told them the great Cause of this their Journey, and all the Christians were glad that this Question was like to be determin'd. When they came to *Jerusalem* they were kindly received, especially by *James* the Bishop of *Jerusalem*: and declaring the great Success God had given to their preaching among the *Gentiles*, they inform'd them of their Message, how that when the *Gentile* Profelytes, or others uncircumcised came into the Faith, some judaizing Christians, of the Sect of the Pharisees, said, that such of the *Gentiles*, as came into the Faith of Christ, were oblig'd to receive Circumcision. Hereupon they met in Council

cil to deliberate about this Question. But *Peter*, to whom God by Miracle had determin'd it before, thus address'd himself to the Council: ' It is well known to you all, that some time since God made choice of me first to preach the Gospel to the *Gentiles*, particularly to *Cornelius* and his Family: And God, that knew the Sincerity of their Hearts, testified that they were acceptable to him and fit to be baptized, bestowing the Gift of the Holy Ghost upon them, as he had before upon us, making no difference between us and them. By this one Act of God to them, it is plainly already determin'd; why then do ye press this Thing so contrary to the Will of God, and impose upon the *Gentile-Converts* the Performance of the *Mosaical* Law, which belonged not to them, and which we *Jews* were so far from being able to perform, that we could not be justified by it? For through the great Mercy of God, 'tis by the Gospel we expect Salvation and Justification, through Faith and Obedience to Christ, and not by Observation of the *Mosaical* Law. Whence it is plain, that if the *Gentiles* believe, they have the same way to Salvation as we.' Then *Paul* and *Barnabas*, in Confirmation of what *Peter* had said, declared what Miracles God had done by them in the Conversion of the *Gentiles*, which was another Argument and Testimony from Heaven, that no difference ought to be made between the *Jews* and *Gentiles*. Then the whole Council expecting *James's* Determination, as Bishop of *Jerusalem* and President of the Council, he stood up and spake to Men and Brethren, *Peter* hath sufficiently demonstrated, that it was the Will of God (as in the case of *Cornelius*) that the *Gentiles* should without Scruple have the Gospel preached to them, and be baptized. And this is agreeable to what hath been foretold by the old Prophets, for they are the Words of God by *Amos* 9. 11, 12. *In the later Days I will return, and build up the Tabernacle of David, which is fallen down, and I will build again the Ruins thereof, and will set it up, that the Residue of Men might seek after the Lord, and*

the Gentiles who call upon my Name, saith the Lord, who do all these Things. This, though not actually fulfill'd in these later Days, was yet foreseen and determined by God long ago, and accordingly thus foretold through Revelation from God by that Prophet. Therefore it is my Conclusion and Determination, That we should not compel them to be circumcised, who from Gentiles turn Christians, but content our selves if they believe. For we that are Jews need not fear, that this will bring a Contempt upon Moses or the Law of the Jews, since the contrary appears by the Christian Practice; even where those Profelytes of the Gentiles are, the Books of Moses are continued among them, being read in the Synagogue every Sabbath-Day, to signify their Respect to the Law.' The Business being thus determin'd, by the Consent of all to the Sentence of the Bishop of Jerusalem, the next Thing was to chuse some Bishops of Judea, that were present at this Council, to go along with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch; and they pitched upon Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, two (x) Bishops of several Churches in Judea. And then they put their Decree into the Form of an Epistle in these Words: 'The Apostles, Bishops of Judea, and the whole Society of Christians in Jerusalem, salute the Church of the Gentiles which is in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We having received an Account, that some of the Judaizing Christians who went from hence indeavoured to subvert you, and carry you to a groundless new Doctrine of the Necessity of all Christians being circumcised, they having no Instructions from us so to do, we have decreed in Council to send two of our own Bishops to accompany Barnabas and Paul; Persons that have in

(x) Bishops. The Greek Word calls them Hegoumenoi, Governors, our translation, Chief, Acts 15. 22. from whence it may safely be resolved, that they were Persons intrusted with the power of Bishops in particular Churches of Judea, and so Members of the Council at Jerusalem. They are likewise,

ibid. v. 32. called Prophets; and when it is said, that there were at Jerusalem Apostles and Elders, Presbyteroi signifies not the Presbyters of Jerusalem, but Bishops of Judea, and of them are these two who are mention'd here; Prophets and Presbyters are those that in particular Churches acted as Bishops.

' preaching



' preaching the Gospel behav'd themselves with all  
 ' Sincerity, and hazarded their Lives for the Service  
 ' of Christ. With these we have sent *Judas* and *Silas*,  
 ' that they may tell you by Word of Mouth, more at  
 ' large what we write in short. For we having pray-  
 ' ed to God to send his Holy Spirit to abide among  
 ' us, and lead us to all Truth, have determin'd that  
 ' the *Gentile* Christians shall not be oblig'd to Circum-  
 ' cision, or other Judaical Observances, or to any more  
 ' than those few Things that have among the *Jews*  
 ' been required of all (y) Profelytes of the Gate; that  
 ' ye abstain from Meats offer'd to Idols, and from  
 ' Blood, and from Things strangled, and from Forni-  
 ' cation: Which Things, if ye shall observe, there  
 ' will be no more of the *Mosaical* Law required of you,  
 ' particularly Circumcision shall not. Farewel.' The  
 Council having dismiss'd them, they hasten to *Antioch*,  
 where calling the Church together, they presented the  
 decretal Epistle to them in the Presence of the whole  
 Congregation: Which when they had read, they ve-  
 ry much rejoiced at the Approbation of their Practice  
 by the Apostles. And these two Bishops, *Judas* and  
*Silas*, being indued with a prophetick Spirit, able to  
 expound and interpret the Scriptures, exhorted and  
 confirmed the Believers in the Faith. And after some  
 stay at *Antioch* they took their leave, receiving the  
 Prayers and Thanks of the Brethren. But *Paul* and  
*Barnabas* continued at *Antioch*, instructing them that  
 had received the Faith, and revealed it to them that  
 had not, and so did also other Disciples.

A few Days after *Paul* desired *Barnabas* to accom-  
 pany him in visiting those Cities where they had be-  
 fore preached, to see how they had advanc'd in the  
 Knowledge of Christ, and confirm them. To which  
*Barnabas* consented, but would have *John Mark* go  
 with them; which *Paul* did not approve of, because  
*John Mark* had left them, when he went from *Pamphylia*,  
 and had not accompanied them constantly in preach-

(y) *Profelytes*. That is, of all *Gentiles* that were in any sort permitted to come into their Temple to worship God.



ing the Gospel. Upon which *Paul* and *Barnabas* parted; *Barnabas* taking *Mark* with him, took Shipping for *Cyprus*, and *Paul* chusing *Silas*, went to *Syria* and *Cilicia*. And whilst they sojourn'd at *Derbe* and *Lystra*, they met with a certain Disciple named *Timothy*, whose Father was a *Greek*, but his Mother an *Hebrew*. He was in great Esteem among the Christians of *Lystra* and *Iconium*; and when *Paul* had a little conversed with him, he found him a valuable Person, and one that would be highly useful and serviceable in propagating the Gospel. *Paul* therefore chose *Timothy* to accompany and assist him in Preaching, and causing him to be (z) circumcised for the Satisfaction of the *Jewish* Converts, who knew his Father to be a *Greek*, he took him along with him. And as they travell'd from Place to Place, they delivered the Decrees of the Council of *Jerusalem* to be kept as a sacred Record; by which they confirm'd the Churches, and every Day converted many to the Faith of Christ. After they had gone through *Phrygia* and *Galatia*, they were by Revelation forbid to preach the Gospel in *Asia*, and coming over against *Mysia*, intending to pass by *Bithynia*, the Spirit again by Revelation forbid them: And therefore passing by *Mysia* they came to *Troas*, where in the Night there appeared to *Paul* a Vision of a Man of *Macedonia*, that stood and prayed, saying, Come over to *Macedonia* and help us. From which *Paul* concluding it to be the immediate Call of God to him, to go and preach the Gospel there, he parted from *Troas*, and with his Companion sail'd directly to *Samothracia*; the next Day to *Neapolis*, and from thence to *Philippi*, a Metropolis of one Part of *Macedonia*, and a *Roman* Colony. Here they staid some Days; and going out of the City, by a River's Side they saw an Oratory, to

(z) Circumcised. *St. Paul* order'd *Timothy* to be circumcised, to gratify the *Jewish* Christians, who would not permit him to preach: The Reason of which was, because the Profelytes of the Gates, or uncircumcised, were not permitted to come into the same Court of the Temple with the *Jews*; and if

*Timothy* had gone into that Court with them, the *Jews* would not hearken to him, or benefit by his Preaching, having a special Aversion to such. And therefore *Paul* had him circumcised. His Father being a *Greek*, and consequently his not being circumcised in his Childhood was known to all.

which

which certain Religious resorted to pray; and going into it, they found many Women assembled, to whom *Paul* preached the Gospel. Of the Number of these Religious was *Lydia*, an Inhabitant of *Thyatira*, and Profelyte of the *Jews*, who with her whole Family, having received the Faith, was baptiz'd; and being desirous of improving by their Preaching, she earnestly importun'd *Paul* and his Company to take up their Abode in her House, to which they consented. And one Day as they were going to the Oratory to Prayer, there met them a young Maid that had a prophetic Spirit by being possess'd with some Devil, which spake from her, by which telling strange Things, whether future or otherwise, she had gain'd her Masters much Money. This Maid followed *Paul* for several Days, crying out, *These are the Servants of the most high God, who shew us the Way of Salvation.* And at last in Pity to the Wretch, he said to the evil Spirit that possess'd her, *In the Name of Jesus Christ I command thee to come out of her.* And the same instant he left her. But when her Masters saw that by this Miracle all Prospect of further Gain by her Divination was gone, they apprehended *Paul* and *Silas*, and brought them before the Magistrates, complaining, that these *Jews* occasioned a great Disturbance in the City, teaching a Religion contrary to theirs, and prohibited by the *Roman* Laws, which allow'd the Practice of no Worship, but what was approved by the Senate. Upon this a great Tumult arose, and the Magistrates order'd them to be (a) scourg'd, first rending off their Clothes; which having done without any Pity or Remorse, they committed them to Prison, strictly charging the Jailor to keep them safe; who immediately put them in Irons, and secured them in the strongest Apartment of the Prison. But notwithstanding this cruel Treatment and close Confinement, these blessed Confessors,

(a) *Scourg'd, &c.* Among the Rites of Scourging, this of rending or tearing off the Garments was one. Both Hands were tied to a Pillar on each Side, then the Lictor or Officer of the Syna-

gogue, takes hold of the Garments, not caring whether he tear, or strip them off, till the Criminal's Breast was quite uncovered. And this was agreeable to the *Roman* Custom.

full of heavenly Tranquillity and inward Peace, spend  
 their Midnight-hours in Prayers and Praises to him  
 that thought them worthy of suffering these cruel In-  
 dignities for his Name. Whilst they thus enjoy'd them-  
 selves in these celestial Rhapsodies, the Earth began to  
 tremble, the very Foundation of the Prison shook, the  
 Prison-Doors flew open, and every Prisoner's Chains  
 dropt from him. The Jailor, waking with the Fright,  
 and seeing the Prison-doors open, concludes a Mutiny  
 had happen'd in the Jail, and that all the Prisoners had  
 escap'd; and thinking with himself that this would be  
 imputed to his Neglect, and be of fatal Consequence to  
 him, in despair drew his Sword with design to kill  
 himself: Which *Paul* happily prevents, telling him his  
 Prisoners were all secure. Then calling for a Light,  
 he came trembling into the Presence of the Saints, and  
 prostrating himself before them, begging Pardon for  
 the severe Treatment they had receiv'd from him, he  
 intreats them to instruct him in the Way of Salvation.  
 They rejoicing at this miraculous Addition to the Fa-  
 mily of Christ, readily tell him, that receiving the  
 Doctrine of Jesus Christ, and living according to it,  
 was that which was required of him and his Family;  
 and having preached it to him, they baptized him and  
 all that belong'd to him. Then applying Medicines  
 to their wounded Bodies, he brought them in a Re-  
 freshment of Viſuals, rejoicing in his happy Conver-  
 sion. The Magistrates, having scourged and commit-  
 ted *Paul* and *Silas* in an unwarrantable tumultuous man-  
 ner, began after to consider what they had done; and  
 upon mature Debate, to prevent being called to ac-  
 count for this rash Proceeding, they sent to the Jailor to  
 discharge the Prisoners, thinking their Joy for their  
 Liberty might stifle their Resentment. The convert-  
 ed Jailor thought this would be welcome News to his  
 Prisoners, and tells them they were at liberty to go  
 where they pleased; and taking his leave, wishes them  
 well. But *Paul's* Resentment would not put up the  
 Abuse thus, telling the Jailor, ' They have shamefully  
 and in publick abus'd us, who are *Romans*, without  
 ' Trial

‘ Trial or shewing Cause, and after this committed us  
 ‘ to Prison, and do they think this private Discharge  
 ‘ shall serve Turn? No, they shall come and give us  
 ‘ Satisfaction for this publick Affront, and discharge  
 ‘ us openly.’ The Officers acquaint the Magistrates  
 with *Paul’s* Resolution; who hearing that they were  
*Romans*, knew they could not answer it to the Govern-  
 nor, and therefore were glad to come in Person to the  
 Prison, where giving them fair Words, they desired  
 them to be gone, that no more Words might be made  
 of the Matter. And from the Prison they went to  
*Lydia’s* House, where having spent some time in con-  
 firming the Christians, they left *Philippi*.

After they had pass’d through *Amphipolis* and *Apollonia*, they came to *Thessalonica*, another Metropolis of  
*Macedonia*, where there was a Synagogue of the *Jews*;  
 into which *Paul*, according to his usual Custom, en-  
 tered, and during three successive Sabbaths, preached  
 out of the Scriptures, that Christ must of necessity be  
 the Messias promis’d to the *Jews*. Upon which some  
 of them receiv’d the Faith, and associated with *Paul*  
 and *Silas*, besides several *Greek* Profelytes and Women  
 of Quality. But the Infidel-*Jews* opposing them all  
 they could, got together some (b) Officers belonging  
 to the Court of Judicature, and in a tumultuous man-  
 ner beset *Jason’s* House, where searching for *Paul* and  
*Silas* and not finding them, they resolve to be reven-  
 ged on some Body, and therefore seize *Jason* and some  
 of the Brethren, and carry them before the Officers  
 of Justice; complaining that these Men who had fill’d  
 the World with (c) Disorder and Confusion, were en-  
 tertain’d by *Jason*; and that they preach’d Doctrines

(b) *Officers, &c.* The *Agoraioi* of the *Greek* can have no relation to the *English* Version, which calls them *Leud Fellows*, nor much to the *Vulgar*, except they mean by *Agoraioi*, the circumforaneous Lawyers, not those of the *Forum*; for they translating the *Greek*, *De vulgo viros quosdam malos*, certain wicked Men of the common People, must mean the coarser Mob. But the Word without any Periphrasis plainly signifies

belonging to a Court of Judicature; and by it possibly in this Place might be meant some of those that used to summon the People to Assemblies upon extraordinary Occasions; and perhaps as this might seem to them to be.

(c) *Disorder, &c.* The *Greek* Word *Anastatosentes* is very odly turn’d in our Translation, by rendering it to turn it upside down. See *Act* 17. 6.

quid



quite contrary to *Cæsar's* Authority over us, declaring one Jesus to be their King. The Magistrates knew not well what to do in this Case, being tender of disobliging either the *Jews* or *Romans*; and therefore taking Security of *Jason* for himself and his Companions, they dismiss'd them. But being concern'd for *Paul's* Safety, by Night they sent him and *Silas* to *Beræa*, where they going straitway into the Synagogue met with a Sort of People ingenuous and mild, vastly differing from the rude and ungentle People of *Thessalonica*; for they chearfully imbraced the Faith, and spent their Time in reading the Scriptures, observing whether what *Paul* taught was agreeable with what the Scriptures say of the *Messias*. Many therefore of those *Jews* received the Faith, as likewise many *Gentiles* of the better Sort, both Men and Women. Now when the *Jews* of *Thessalonica* heard that *Paul* preached the Gospel at *Beræa*, they persu'd him thither, resolving he should not rest within reach of them. To secure him therefore from their Malice, and to elude the Persecutors, the Christians there sent *Paul* toward the Sea-side, as if he meant to take Ship, whereas he intended to go to *Athens* a-foot; but *Silas* and *Timothy* were left behind, and were order'd quickly to follow.

Whilst *Paul* waited for his Company at *Athens*, he with great Emotion of Spirit saw the City (*d*) wholly given to Idolatry: For which Reason he not only preach'd in the Synagogue to the *Jews* and Profelytes, but in other Places of Concourse he took occasion to make known the Christian Doctrine to all the Heathens he met. Some learned Men of *Athens*, both (*e*) *Epicureans* and *Stoicks*, seeing *Paul* so ready to ingage in Dispute with every one, undertook him: but not understanding him, some cry'd, he was a prating babbling fellow; others, that he came to discover some strange God to them, because he frequently mentioned Jesus

(d) Wholly. That *Athens* was so, appears from the Number of Idols there, being more than in all *Greece* besides.

(e) *Epicureans*. There were two contrary Sects of Philosophers at *A-*

*thens*, the *Epicureans*, who denied Providence, and the *Stoicks*, who maintain'd Fate, but denied all Freedom of Will.



and the Resurrection. After this they brought him to  
 (f) *Areopagus*, and examined what new Religion it was  
 he taught; for all that they had hitherto heard, was  
 new and strange, and there they desired to have a full  
 Account of all. *Paul* being brought before the Mag-  
 istrates in *Areopagus*, said, ' I perceive, O *Athen-*  
 ' *ians*, that ye have a great Number of Idols; for as  
 ' I passed by and saw your superstitious Devotions,  
 ' found an Altar with this Inscription, (g) *TO THE*  
 ' *UNKNOWN GOD*. This God therefore whom  
 ' you acknowledge not to know, yet profess to wor-  
 ' ship, is he whom I preach, the invisible God of Hea-  
 ' ven and Earth, who cannot be contain'd in Temple  
 ' of Man's making; nor can any Image made by Man  
 ' be a proper Instrument of his Worship, he being  
 ' far from wanting our Help, that it is he that gives to  
 ' all their Life, and all that they have. And from one  
 ' Man, he hath made a whole World of Men, ap-  
 ' pointing Times and Places in great order; and the  
 ' End of all this is, that they should seek after their  
 ' Creator and worship him, who is indeed near every  
 ' one of us, even as the Soul that animates us: For  
 ' our Life, Motion, and Subsistence are wholly through  
 ' him, according to that which one of your own Po-  
 ' ets hath said. God therefore being our Creator, who  
 ' cannot in reason suppose him to be the Work of our  
 ' Hands, such as a Piece of Gold or Silver, or a Stone  
 ' graven. This Time of Ignorance hath lasted long  
 ' but now God calls you all to Repentance, having  
 ' determin'd the Way by which all the World shall be

(f) *Areopagus*. In *Athens* their  
*Areopagus* was their Senate or standing  
 Court of Judicature, by whose Laws  
 and Orders any new Gods were received  
 among them; and therefore as soon as  
 they conceived *Paul* was a Promulger  
 of new strange Deities, they bring him  
 to the *Areopagus*, to have him examin-  
 ed what Gods they were that he thus  
 preached, *Acts* 17. 19. But a little  
 further, *ibid.* v. 22. this *Areopagus* is  
 unjustly called *Mars-hill* it taking its  
 Name from the Causes tried there, *viz.*  
 Murders, for which *Ares* is often us'd.

(g) *Unknown God*. There are ma-  
 ny Stories about this Inscription; but  
 it is most probable it proceeded from  
 their Hospitality towards the  
 that occasion'd it; for they were  
 ready to receive any strange God  
 their Worship, as they were to  
 certain Strangers. And this is plain  
 from the whole Inscription, of which  
 this is but part; which runs thus,  
 the Gods of Europe, Asia and Africa,  
 and to one strange one, which I  
 knew not.

' judge

‘judged, that is, by receiving or refusing the Faith of Christ; who being raised from the dead, is offered to all Men to believe in.’ When they heard him mention the Resurrection, the *Epicureans* especially, who denied all future Life, fell a laughing at him: Others said, we will hear thee about this another time; and so *Paul* left them. But there were some that believed and associated with him, particularly *Dionysius* one of the Senators, or Judges in *Areopagus*, and his Wife *Damaris*, with some others.

From *Athens* *Paul* departed to *Corinth*, where he found a certain Jew named *Aquila*, born in *Pontus*, lately come from *Italy* with his Wife *Priscilla*, because the Emperor *Claudius*, toward the latter end of his Reign, made an Edict to banish the *Jews* from *Rome* and *Italy*; and finding that *Aquila* was brought up to the same (b) Trade in which he was when young instructed, he took up his Quarters with him, and wrought with him in the Trade of Tent-making. But every Sabbath he preached in the Synagogues of the *Jews*, labouring to convince both *Jews* and *Greeks*.

By this Time *Silas* and *Timothy* were come from *Macedonia*; and *Paul* being very much troubled at the Obstinacy of the *Jews*, did his utmost to persuade them to the Belief that Jesus was the *Messias*; but when they not only opposed him, but treated him contumeliously, he not only us’d that ordinary Ceremony of Shaking his Shoes or his Garments, noting thereby their Unworthiness of having the Gospel further preach’d to them, and the sad Consequences that attend Obstina-

(b) Trade. It was a great Maxim and Principle among the *Jews*, That he who teaches not his Son a Trade, teaches him to be a Thief. They thought it not only fit, but a necessary Part of Education, whereby if reduced through Necessity, though ever so great and learned, they might by a manual Trade maintain themselves: Hence nothing more common, than for their wisest and most learned *Rabbins* to take their Denominations from their Callings. This Custom was taken up by the Christians, especially the Monks and

Asceticks of the primitive times, who together with their strict Profession, and almost incredible Exercises of Devotion, took upon them a particular Trade, whereby they maintain’d themselves. The Trade our Apostle was put to, was that of Tent-making, whereat he wrought, for some particular Reasons, even after his calling to the Apostolate. An honest but mean Trade; though it was useful and gainful, especially in those warlike Countries, where Armies had such frequent Use of Tents.

cy, but said, ' Having thus warned you, I am free from  
 ' the Guilt of your Destruction, which will certainly  
 ' come upon you ; I will stay no longer among you,  
 ' but will without any further Scruple preach to the  
 ' Gentiles.' And going out of the Synagogue, he went  
 to the House of one *Justus*, a *Gentile* by Birth, but a  
*Jewish* Profelyte. Before *Paul* quitted the Synagogue,  
 though many of the *Jews* oppos'd him, *Crispus* the  
 Chief of the Synagogue, and several of the *Corinthians*  
 believed and were baptized. And one Night the  
 Lord by a Vision spake to *Paul* saying, ' Fear not, for  
 ' I am with thee ; but preach the Gospel confidently  
 ' in this Place ; for tho some oppose thee, yet there be  
 ' many pious Men in this Heathen wicked City, that  
 ' will receive the Gospel.' Upon this *Paul* continued  
 at *Corinth* eighteen Months, preaching the Gospel to  
 them of *Corinth* and all *Achaia*, and further instructing  
 and confirming them that received it.

During *Paul's* stay at *Corinth*, *Gallio* being Proconsul  
 of *Achaia*, the *Jews* made a general Insurrection against  
*Paul*, and brought him before the Proconsul, demand-  
 ing Justice against him, complaining, That he had  
 perswaded the People to worship God contrary to the  
 Law of the *Jews*. *Paul* being about to make his De-  
 fence, *Gallio* spake thus to the *Jews*, ' Were the Case  
 ' before me matter of Injustice or Scandal, I should  
 ' readily take Cognizance of it ; but since the Questi-  
 ' on betwixt you is only a verbal Controversy, whe-  
 ' ther *Jesus* ought to be acknowledged as *Messias*, whe-  
 ' ther *Christians* by that Name ought to distinguish  
 ' themselves from the incredulous *Jews*, and concern-  
 ' ing your Law ; of these Things I am no competent  
 ' Judge, nor does it belong to my Cognizance, the  
 ' Senate of *Rome* having promulged no Law against  
 ' the *Christians*, and therefore I shall not meddle  
 ' with it.' Some of the Natives of *Corinth* seeing  
 the Proconsul throw the Indictment against *Paul* out  
 of the Court, took *Sosthenes*, one of the Rulers of the  
*Jewish* Consistory, that appear'd forward in this Com-  
 plaint against *Paul*, and beat him in open Court, the  
 Proconsul

Proconsul shewing no Dislike of, nor disapproving of these Proceedings.

After this *Paul* stay'd some time at *Corinth*; and when he went from thence, he took with him *Priscilla* and her Husband *Aquila*, (who made a (i) Vow for a time not to shave his Head, which he did not do till he came to *Cenchrea*) and went into *Syria*. And when he came to *Ephesus* he left them there, telling them he must be at *Jerusalem* before the Passover; but afterwards, if God permitted, he would return to them. Then going by Sea from *Ephesus*, he landed at *Casarea Stratonis*, and from thence went up to *Jerusalem*, and visited the Congregation of Christians there; and having done so, and kept the Feast there, he went from thence to *Antioch*: Where having spent some time, he took his leave, and travelled through *Galatia* and *Phrygia*, confirming and instructing all the new Converts.

Some time after *Paul* left *Aquila* and *Priscilla* at *Ephesus*, a certain Jew named *Apollos*, born at *Alexandria*, came thither. He had a great Insight and Skill in the Writings of the Old Testament, and was well instructed in the Gospel, but not perfectly in all Things relating to it; yet being very zealous in the Way he was entred, he began to preach the Gospel among them out of the Prophets: but this was before he was baptized with the Christian Baptism, being only received by *John* to the believing in him that was to come. *Aquila* and *Priscilla* hearing that what he preached was true, but yet wanted somewhat of that Knowledge to which they had attained, they commu-

(i) Vow. This Vow was without all question, the Vow of the *Nazarites* among the Jews, *Numb. 6. 5.* which was not always for Life, but sometimes for a determinate time; but when that time was past, one part of the Vow was to be shaved, *v. 18.* and to offer up the Hair (called the Hair of Separation) to put it into the Fire. But because this Vow is here done at *Cenchrea*, and not at *Jerusalem*, (where the Accomplishment of the Vow was to be perform'd, *Numb. 6. 13.*) it is most probable

that this Shaving here, was not on the accomplishing his Vow, but upon some intervening illegal Pollution; in which case he was bound to offer for a Cleansing, and on the seventh Day to shave his Head, and so begin the Days again, *ibid. ch. 6. v. 11, 12.* This probably might be done in any City, where a Man happened to be so polluted; but the Completion of the Vow, when the Days of his Separation were fulfill'd, was to be at *Jerusalem*.



nicated it to him. And when *Apollos* had a mind to go into *Achaia*, the Christians at *Ephesus* wrote to those of the Church of *Corinth*, and all *Achaia*, commendatory Letters. When he came thither, he did a great deal of Good among them, instructing and confirming those that by the Preaching of the Gospel had been converted to the Faith; and convinc'd the *Jews* out of the Scriptures that Jesus was the *Messias*.

Whilst *Apollos* was at *Corinth*, *Paul* took his way through the upper Part of the Country to *Ephesus*; and finding there some Christian Professors publishing the Gospel, he asked them whether they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed? They told him, they had not so much as heard any thing of it; upon which he said, How can that be, since the Christian Baptism is in the Name of the Holy Ghost? To which they answer'd, That *John's* Baptism was all they had received. Then *Paul* knowing, that by *John's* Baptism they had implicitly acknowledg'd Christ, under the Title of *Him that should come after him*, and had promised to repent and reform their Lives, he explicitly taught them the whole Doctrine of Christ and the Holy Ghost. And when they heard this, they believed, and were receiv'd into the Church as Christian Profelytes, in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. After which, *Paul* by Imposition of Hands and Benediction gave them Confirmation, by which means the Holy Ghost came on them, and they were inspired with the speaking Languages, and other extraordinary Gifts of the Holy Ghost. After this *Paul* went and preached the Gospel in the Synagogues that were at *Ephesus*, to the *Jews* for the Space of three Months, labouring to convince them; but instead of being convinc'd, they not only reject'd the Gospel, but spoke contumeliously of it in publick before the People: whereupon he left them, and took those that were converted by themselves, and instructed them daily in a Place where (k) Scholars were taught privately,

(k) *Scholars*. There were two kinds of Schools among the *Jews*, wherein the Law was taught, Private or Publick, Private, wherein any Doctor entertain'd Scholars,



vately, and which belonged to one *Tyrannus*. This he did for the Space of two Years, in which time all the Inhabitants of the Proconsular *Asia*, both *Jews* and *Greeks*, had the Gospel preached to them; and many extraordinary Miracles were wrought by *Paul*, insomuch that he did not only cure them who came to him, but by his touching linen Clothes, and sending them to such as were sick, or possess'd with Devils, they were immediately cured. Which some of the vagabond *Jewish* Exorcists seeing, they attempted to cast out Devils by using the Name of Jesus; among whom were the seven Sons of one *Sceva* a *Jew*, one of the chief of the Families of the Priests, who adjuring the evil Spirit in the Name of Jesus, were thus answered from the possessed, *Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but you come not with any Authority from Jesus, who hath given it to Paul*. And the Man who was possess'd fell furiously upon them, and was too hard for them, tearing off their Clothes, and wounding them, so that they were glad to fly from him. This being soon rumour'd among the *Jews* and Natives of *Ephesus*, prevail'd so with many of them, that they were convinc'd, and came over to the Faith. And they that were so happy came to *Paul* and his Company, confessing their former Course of Life, to know what they should do: And many that had studied and practis'd Magick, brought their Books out, and burnt them publickly, though they were of great Value. Of so great Authority was the Word of God, as it was preached by *Paul* among the *Ephesians* and those of *Asia*.

After this *Paul* determin'd, as he went through *Macedonia* and *Achaia*, to go to *Jerusalem*, and from thence to *Rome*; and sending into *Macedonia*, *Timothy* and *Erastus*, two of his Assistants, himself stay'd some time in *Asia*: Where about the same time there happened a great Commotion concerning the Doctrine of

Scholars, and such was this of *Tyrannus* here, contain'd under the Title of *Houses of Learning*, as one Kind of their holy Places; their Schools, as well as their Synagogues being accounted so. Their publick Schools were those where their Consistories sat to resolve Differences of the Law.

the Gospel ; for one *Demetrius*, a Silversmith, that dealt in making little (1) Cabinets of Silver, with the Image of *Diana* in them, had a great many of that Trade that wrought under him, who were all maintained by that Employment ; and many others of several Occupations were employed about these Pictures. All these therefore, whose Livelihoods were concerned in it, he call'd together, and thus harangu'd them :  
 ' Sirs, ye know, that by this Employment we maintain our selves, which by this *Paul's* Preaching, not only here in *Ephesus*, but throughout all *Asia*, is in great danger of being spoil'd ; for he hath already prevail'd upon many People to forsake our manner of Worship, affirming, That they are not true Gods which are made with Hands, and still persists in so doing ; whereby not only we are like to lose our Business, in which so many are daily employed, but the Worship of the great Goddess *Diana*, and the Magnificence of her Temple will be despis'd.' The People being touch'd in their Interest, the most sensible Part in those that affect worldly Gain, tumultuously decry *Paul's* Doctrine, crying out, ' Great is *Diana* of the Ephesians.' And the City was full of nothing but Confusion ; during which they seiz'd *Gaius* and *Aristarchus*, two of *Paul's* Companions, and hurried them to the Theatre, with design probably to throw them upon the Stage, to fight with the wild Beasts, as was usual to do with Malefactors. *Paul* seeing his Friends in danger, had a mind to go into the Theatre, with intent to give them an account of the Faith of Christ, in opposition to their Idol-worship, but the Christians dissuaded him ; besides, some of the Prefects of the Games, knowing the

(1) *Cabinets*. In the Idolatry of the Heathens they used to carry the Images of their Gods in Procession from one City to another. This they did in a Chariot consecrated for that purpose. But besides this greater, there was a less Frame wherein it was placed, by the Romans called *Ferculum*, not much

unlike that which the Greeks called *Naxos*, a little Chapel, representing the Form of a Temple, with an Image in it ; which being set upon the Altar, or other solemn Place, and the Leaves of the Door opened, the Image appeared sitting or standing in State, and so was represented to the Spectators,

People's Design to cast him to the wild Beasts, kindly sent him a Caution not to stir out. The Tumult rather increasing than diminishing, some of the Officers brought out *Alexander*, a *Jewish* Profelyte of the Faith, and examined him, in hopes that he would excuse himself, and lay the Fault upon *Paul*. Then *Alexander* beckon'd with his Hand for silence, thinking to make his Defence: But the *Ephesians* knowing him to be a *Jew*, and supposing he was of *Paul's* Opinion, they would not suffer him to speak; but continued for two Hours running up and down, and crying, 'Great is *Diana* of the *Ephesians*.' The Register of the Games seeing the Tumult still increase, thought it high time to compose and quiet the People, to whom he made the following Oration: 'Every body knows that *Ephesus* among the Cities of *Greece* hath the Honour to be chief in the Worship of *Diana*, because her Temple incloses that Image that fell down from *Jupiter*. This being granted by all, what need is there of all this Noise? For as to these Men, whom ye have brought hither, they have neither robbed your Temples, nor spoken any thing against your Goddess *Diana*; and as for *Demetrius* and the Tradesmen that depend on him, if they have suffer'd any Damage, the Law is open: But if you have any other Suit or Controversy among you, it shall be referred to such Judicature as the Law appoints: For we are in danger of being called in question already for this Day's Uproar, there being no Cause or Excuse for it.' Upon which the Multitude separated.

This Commotion at *Ephesus* being appeas'd, *Paul* called all the Christians together, and having constituted *Timothy* Bishop there, he took his leave of them, and went directly to *Macedonia*; where having instructed and confirm'd the People in the Christian Faith and Practice, he parted from thence, and wintring in *Ephesus*, he came into *Greece*; where staying three months, as he was going from thence to *Syria*, in order to carry Alms to *Judea*, being advertised that the *Jews* laid wait

wait for him, either to rob or kill him, he alter'd his Course, and pass'd through *Macedonia* a third time; after which *Sopater* accompanied him into *Asia* all the Way; but *Aristarchus*, *Secundus*, *Gaius*, *Timothy*, *Tychicus*, and *Trophimus*, went before into *Asia*, and expected *Paul* and his Company at *Troas*. After the Passover *Paul* came thither, and tarried there seven Days; and on the Lord's-Day, or Sunday, the Christians being met together to receive the Sacrament, *Paul* preached to them at large, and intending to be gone the next Morning, he continued his Discourse the longer, holding them till Midnight. The Room wherein they were assembled being heated with the great Number of Lights, and the Season too, a certain young Man named *Eutychus* sitting at a Window for Air, and falling fast asleep, dropt out of the Window the Depth of three Stories. This had prov'd an everlasting Sleep, but for the Presence of *Paul*, who laying his all-healing Hands upon him, restor'd him alive to his Friends. After this *Paul* went up into the Oratory again, and they spent the rest of the Night together in receiving the Sacrament of the Body of Christ; and *Paul* further instructing them till the next Morning, he departed as soon as it was Day. But some of the Company went before by Sea to *Affos*, intending there to take in *Paul*, who meeting them there went with them to *Mitylene*. Then passing by *Chios*, the next Day they arrived at *Samos*, and tarried at *Trogyllium*, and the Day after they came to *Miletus*; for *Paul* intending to make no Stay in any Part of *Asia*, order'd them not to stop at *Ephesus*, because he intended, if possible, to be at *Jerusalem* at the Feast of *Pentecost*. But yet being desirous to speak with the Bishops of *Asia*, he sent to *Ephesus* the Metropolis of *Asia*, from whence the Bishops had notice to come to *Miletus* to him. Where when they were all met, *Paul* took his last Leave of them in this Speech. 'Ye know from the first Day that I came into *Asia*, how I behaved my self among you, for three Years preaching the Gospel with all Humility



and Affection, and running great Hazards from the Jews who conspired against my Life. Ye likewise know, that I never concealed any thing that might be for your advantage, but freely shewed and instructed you in all Things both publickly and privately; preaching to the Jews and Profelytes in their Synagogues, and to the Gentiles elsewhere, the whole Doctrine of the Gospel, with Assurance of Pardon upon Repentance, and exhorting them to live up to the Purity of the Doctrine of Christ. And now I am going to *Jerusalem*, willing to suffer what shall befall me there; and foreseeing that there I shall be seized and imprisoned, being told it by those that have the Spirit of Prophecy, wherever I come I am prepared for it, and value not my Life, if I may but be serviceable in the Ministry with which Christ hath trusted me. And now this I know, that after my Departure from you, ye will never see my Face again. And therefore I declare to you all, that I am innocent of that Ruin, which I foresee will befall all those that do not adhere to Christ, having done my best to prevent it: For I have fully communicated to you the whole Christian Doctrine, which may serve you as an Antidote against all those Heresies, which are likely to break in among you. Wherefore look to yourselves, you that are Bishops and Governors of the Churches of *Asia*, and take care of the Flocks committed to you by Christ, and which he purchased with his own Blood: For it is certain, that when I am gone, you will be solicited by false Teachers, seducing the Faithful, and doing great Mischief. And some of your own Churches will vent pernicious false Doctrines, to make Divisions among you, and to gain Followers. Be ye careful therefore, remembering with how much Sorrow and Tears I have warn'd you Night and Day for these three Years of these Things. And now, Brethren, I recommend you to God and the Gospel, to which if ye adhere, it will be able to instruct and perfect you, and bring you



‘ you to the Bliss of Saints. I appeal to your selves,  
 ‘ whether I have endeavour’d to make any worldly Advan-  
 ‘ vantage by my preaching. You can all bear me Wit-  
 ‘ ness, that I have by my Trade of Tent-making main-  
 ‘ tained my self, and those that were with me. I have  
 ‘ by my Words and Actions demonstrated to you, that  
 ‘ you that are Governors of the Church are to take  
 ‘ Care of the sick and poor, and rather endeavour by  
 ‘ your own Labour to enable you to relieve others,  
 ‘ than be chargeable to any, according to that Saying  
 ‘ of Christ, (not recorded in the Gospel) It is more  
 ‘ blessed to give than to receive.’ When *Paul* had  
 ended this Exhortation, he kneel’d down and pray’d  
 with them all. And taking leave of him, in the most  
 passionate Expressions of Affection and Grief, they im-  
 braced and kiss’d him; but his Expression, that they  
 should see him no more, affected them deeply, and see-  
 ing him to the Ship, they took their last leave of him.

After this sad parting from the Bishops of *Asia* at  
*Miletus*, *Paul* with his Attendants took ship, and sail-  
 ed with a fair Gale to *Coos*; thence to *Rhodes*, and so to  
*Patara*, where finding a Ship bound for *Phœnicia*, they  
 went on board, and put to Sea; and discovering *Cy-  
 prus*, they sail’d to *Syria*, and landed at *Tyre*, for there  
 the Ship was to unload. And meeting there with some  
 that had receiv’d the Gospel, and were indued with  
 Gifts, particularly that of Prophecy, he stay’d with  
 them seven Days; and they by Revelation told *Paul*,  
 that he would incur much Danger by going to *Jerusa-  
 lem*, and therefore dissuaded him from going thither.  
 But this moved not *Paul*, for he left that Place; and all  
 of them, Men, Women and Children, attended him  
 out of the City, and there on the Sea-shore, he kneel-  
 ed down and prayed at parting. From *Tyre* they  
 went to *Ptolemais*, where they tarried one Day with  
 the Disciples. The next Day *Paul* and his Friends  
 went to *Cæsarea*, and visited *Philip*, one of the seven  
 Deacons, who had been sent by the Apostles to preach  
 the Gospel in *Samaria* and other Places, with whom  
 they

they stay'd some time. This *Philip* had four Virgin-Daughters, all of them indued with the Gift of Prophecy. And while they were at *Philip's* House, there came to them from *Judea* a certain Prophet named *Agabus*; who, after the manner of the old Prophets, who often prophesied by Symbols or significant Expressions, took *Paul's* Girdle, and bound his own Hands and Feet with it, and said, *It hath been revealed to me by God, that after this Manner, that I have bound my self with Paul's Girdle, shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind Paul, and deliver him to the Procurator of the Romans to be put to Death.* Whereupon the whole Company with earnest Intreaties and Tears begg'd of *Paul* not to go to *Jerusalem*. To whom *Paul* reply'd, *Why do you afflict me with this Compassion, and by your tender Importunity dissuade me from this Journey? For I am heartily willing to suffer Bonds, and Death it self, for the Propagation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.* And when they found that no Intreaties could prevail, they submitted to the Will of God. Then they all set out for *Jerusalem*, taking with them several of the Disciples of *Cæsarea*, particularly *Mnaſon* the *Cypriot*, who had formerly received the Faith, when *Paul* and *Barnabas* were at *Cyprus*. Being arrived at *Jerusalem*, they were joyfully received by the Faithful there; and the next Day they waited on *James* the Bishop of *Jerusalem*, who with all the Bishops of *Judea* were assembled together, that they might in Council consider of *Paul's* Business. When he had saluted them, he acquainted them with the Success of his Ministry among the *Gentiles*. Upon which they bless'd God for the wonderful Works wrought upon the Heathen Idolaters by his preaching; and after that began to tell him what at present would be prudent for him to do, not so much in respect of the unbelieving, as the converted *Jews*, of whom there were many Thousands in *Judea*, who though they had received the Gospel, yet stuck close to the Observances of the Mosaical Law. 'These (said they) have heard it affirm'd of thee, that not only according to  
' the

the Decrees of our Council, thou permittest the Gen-  
 tile Converts to remain uncircumcised, but also that  
 those *Jews* that are dispersed in *Asia*, and elsewhere,  
 whom thou hast converted, leave off Circumcision and  
 other Ceremonies of the Mosaical Law, at thy Persua-  
 sion. This therefore will be the Event in all proba-  
 bility: All the *Jewish* Christians will hear of thy being  
 come hither, and will throng in Crouds to see how  
 thou behavest thy self in this matter. Therefore take  
 our Advice: There are four Men here at this time,  
 who have taken a *Nazarite's* Vow upon them, which  
 being accomplish'd, they are to perform the Ceremo-  
 nies prescribed. These do thou perform with them,  
 and make Provision of Sacrifices for them, that so they  
 may shave their Heads according to Order; and by  
 this they will be persuaded, that they have heard false  
 Reports of thee, and that thou dost still observe the  
 Mosaical Rites. As for the *Gentiles* that have recei-  
 ved the Gospel, we made a Decree, thou knowest, and  
 sent it to *Antioch* by thee and *Barnabas*, by which they  
 are not obliged to any such Observances.' Paul took  
 their Advice, thus far to comply with the Judaizing  
 Christians, that he might not exasperate them, and went  
 into the Temple, and did all that was requisite for a  
*Nazarite's* Purification, and when that was done gave  
 solemn Notice of it; upon which they were, according  
 to the Law of *Moses*, to make an Offering for each Per-  
 son. And when the seven Days, wherein those Sacri-  
 fices were to be performed, were near an end, many In-  
 fidel *Jews* of *Asia*, that had before opposed him, being  
 now at *Jerusalem*, seeing him in the Temple, set the Mul-  
 titude upon him, who seiz'd him, crying out, 'This is  
 he who hath taught wherever he came, that the *Jews*  
 should be destroy'd, the Mosaical Law abolish'd, and  
 the Temple, where he is now purifying himself, laid  
 waste, and hath profaned the Temple by bringing  
*Greeks* into it.' This last thing they spake more con-  
 fidently than truly; for they seeing *Trophimus*, a *Gentile*  
 of *Ephesus*, with him in the City, they concluded he had  
 brought

brought him into the Temple. This Outcry so exasperated the Rabble, that they hal'd him out of the Temple, and beating *Paul* they had kill'd him, if the Captain of the Temple-Guard had not interposed ; who rescuing him from the People's Fury, to secure him, put him under a Guard of two Soldiers, and chain'd him to each of them : And not able to find out the Cause of this Up-roar by reason of the great Confusion amongst them, he committed *Paul* to the Tower *Antonia* ; and as they were going up the Stairs to the Tower, the Throng of the *Jews* was so pressing, that the Soldiers were forced to carry *Paul* in their Arms to secure him from them ; for they persu'd him, crying out to have him put to Death. And when he was at the Tower-Gate, he spoke in *Greek* to the Commander, and ask'd if he would be pleas'd to permit him to speak to him ; who thinking he had been that *Egyptian* false Prophet, that had rais'd a Sedition in *Judea* not long before, and had gotten four thousand Followers with him in the Wilderness, he seem'd to refuse *Paul* the Liberty of speaking. But *Paul* explaining himself, told him he was a Citizen of *Tarsus*, which enjoy'd the *Roman* Privileges ; and therefore he hop'd he would not deny him the Favour of vindicating himself. When the Captain of the Guard heard this, he consented, and *Paul* standing on the Stairs, and beckning with his Hand for Silence, he address'd himself in this manner to them in the *Hebrew* Tongue : ' Give me  
' leave, O ye People, to clear my self of the Accusa-  
' tion charg'd upon me. I am a *Jew*, born in *Tarsus*,  
' yet brought up in this City, under the Tuition of *Ga-*  
' *maliel*, and in the way of my Education was as zealous  
' as any of you seem this Day ; for I persecuted the  
' Christians with the utmost Severity, binding and im-  
' prisoning all Sorts, without distinction of Age or Sex.  
' For the Truth of this I appeal to the *Sanhedrin*, espe-  
' cially the High-Priest, from whom I received Com-  
' mission to seize all the Christians I could find in *Syria*,  
' and bring them to *Jerusalem* to be punish'd there.  
' And as I was going to execute this Commission, being  
' near



' near *Damascus*, I was surpriz'd with a certain Emissi-  
 ' on of Light from Heaven, and falling to the Ground, a  
 ' Voice thunder'd out of the Clouds, saying, Saul, Saul,  
 ' why persecutest thou me? And asking who it was, I re-  
 ' ceived this for Answer, *I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom*  
 ' *thou persecutest.* And they that were with me saw the  
 ' Light and were afraid, but no body heard the Voice  
 ' save my self. Desiring to know how to dispose of my  
 ' self, the same Voice bid me go to *Damascus*, where I  
 ' should receive Instructions. And being blind for a  
 ' time, I was led to *Damascus*; and *Ananias*, a Chris-  
 ' tian and a good Man, came, and by the Command of  
 ' the Spirit restored my Sight; assuring me, that God  
 ' had chosen me to preach the Gospel, and make known  
 ' to all Men the Things which Christ had made known  
 ' to me; in order to which I was baptized, and ad-  
 ' mitted into the Church. And at my first coming to  
 ' *Jerusalem* after this, as I was praying in the Temple,  
 ' I fell into a Trance, and I thought I saw Christ, and he  
 ' commanded me to hasten from this Place, because my  
 ' former Zeal against the Gospel, would hinder my  
 ' preaching of it now. Against this I argued, that I  
 ' thought it would further it the more, instancing in  
 ' my persecuting the Christians, and assisting at the  
 ' Death of *Stephen*, which I presum'd might convince  
 ' them of my being in the right, and put them upon in-  
 ' quiring into the Cause of my Change. But this did  
 ' not prevail; for methought Christ commanded me to  
 ' depart from *Jerusalem*, telling me he would make me  
 ' the Apostle of the *Gentiles.*' Thus far the *Jews* had  
 ' Patience to suffer him to speak; but when he mention-  
 ' ed the *Gentiles*, and his Commission to them, they cri-  
 ' ed out he was a Villain, and unworthy to live. And  
 ' while they were thus violent, making as if they would  
 ' stone him, and shewing very extravagant Signs of their  
 ' Fury, the Captain commanded him to be brought into  
 ' the Tower, where he should be scourg'd till he confess-  
 ' ed by what means he thus incens'd the People. And  
 ' as they were fastening him to the Block in order to  
 ' scourge

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 [Vol. 3]



scourge him, *Paul* applying himself to the Captain said, 'Do the *Roman* Laws permit you to deal thus with a free *Roman* before Sentence is pass'd on him?' Upon this the Captain goes to the Commander in chief, advising him to be cautious in what he did to *Paul*, for he was a *Roman*. The Commander hearing that, came and ask'd *Paul*, whether it was so; for, said he, I am a *Roman*, but not by Birth, having purchased that Privilege with a great Expence: But, says *Paul*, I was born a free *Roman*. This put them by their Design of scourging him, and not a little perplex'd the Commandant, who fear'd he had already done more than he could answer in putting *Paul* in Irons. They therefore freed him from his Irons; but yet being desirous to know the Bottom of the Business, he convened the *Sanhedrin*, and brought out *Paul* to see what they would object against him.

The *Sanhedrin* being sat, *Paul* is called; who surveying them with his usual Presence of Mind, thus began his Speech: 'To this time I have lived both as a Jew and a Christian sincerely, according to the Dictates of my Conscience.' *Ananias* the High-priest looking upon this Introduction as a very great insolence and Presumption, and fearing the rest would be of the same nature, resolved effectually to stop him, and therefore commanded the Officers that stood near him to strike him on the Mouth. This rous'd *Paul's* zealous Indignation, who turning to *Ananias* said, 'God will punish thee, thou Hypocrite, for this violent Injustice; for dost thou sit here as a Distributer of Legal Justice, and breakest the Law thy self in commanding me to be thus abused?' The Standers by hearing this, reprov'd *Paul* for railing against the High-priest. To whom *Paul* justifies himself, saying, 'I did not (m) acknowledge him to be the High-Priest; for

(m) Acknowledge. The Versions make St. Paul lye, when they make him say, in the presence of the Jewish Council, speaking of the High-Priest [Vol. 3.]

*Ananias*, I wist not, Brethren, that he was the High-Priest, Acts 23. 5. For it is almost impossible but that St. *Paul* must have known the greatest Part

‘ for it is written, thou shalt not speak evil of the Ruler of thy People.’ But *Saul* seeing the Council divided, Part of them being Pharisees, who believed another Life after this; and Part of them Sadduces, that did not; he took the advantage of their Division, and said, ‘ I am a Pharisee, as my Father was, and the chief Thing for which I am called in question is my belie-

Part of the Members of the *Sanhedrin*, and especially the High-Priest, who made a particular Figure in that Assembly, and whose Garments alone were enough to distinguish him from others. ’Tis true, that for some Years before *St. Paul* had not been at *Jerusalem*, and that *Ananias* was exalted to that Dignity in his Absence; besides, that there was then such a Confusion in the Jewish Government, that sometimes three different High-Priests were chosen in one Year. But *St. Paul* having lived at *Jerusalem* many Years before, and in a Capacity of becoming a Member of the *Sanhedrin*, having been brought up at the Foot of *Gamaliel*, President thereof, and being already an Officer of it, since he had a Commission to persecute the Christians at *Damascus*; it is not to be presumed, that he had so lost the Idea of those Persons that made up the *Sanhedrin*, that he could not distinguish them when he return’d to the City. It’s likewise observ’d in the following Verse, that *St. Paul* perceiv’d that one Part of the Council were Sadduces, and the other Pharisees, which he could not have done, if he had not known them. And how could he have taken the High-Priest to witness, *Acts* 22. 5. *that he persecuted the Christians unto Death*, if he had not known him? But suppose he did not know *Ananias* to be High-Priest, yet he could not but know he was one of the Senators or Princes of the People. Besides, it can be no advantageous Opinion of *St. Paul*, that he pronounced those Words against *Ananias*, *God shall smite thee, &c.* without knowing him; and to think that he was so transported with Anger, that he did not know against whom he denounced this Prediction. Is it not more natural to acknowledge, that he spoke wisely, and by the Direction of

the Holy Ghost, than to imagine him to have excus’d his pretended Raths by his want of Knowledge? However it be, if this *Ananias* was the High-Priest of the same Name with him who was killed with the Son of *Gamaliel* at the Destruction of *Jerusalem*, the Apostle’s Prediction wanted neither Apology nor Retraction.

Interpreters alledge, that the Apostle’s Declaration of his Ignorance, in respect to the Character of *Ananias*, was not a formal Retraction, but an Irony. But we cannot imagine, that the Apostle’s Gravity, and the Circumstances in which he was, could permit him to ridicule his Judges, at the very time when he acknowledg’d, that God had commanded to respect them.

These Considerations have oblig’d several learned Expositors to have recourse to another Signification of the Term of the Original than the Apostle makes use of, which seems much better to express his Design. They observe, that this Term does often signify, *I acknowledge*; so that *St. Paul* is to be understood from excusing what he said, that he declares he does not acknowledge *Ananias* for the High-Priest; not only because that Office had ceas’d at the Death of *Jesus Christ*, who afterwards was to be the only High-Priest, as he declares, *Heb.* 9. but also because, in defect, *Ananias* was not the true High-Priest, having only usurp’d this Office which by right belong’d to *Gamaliel*, called *Simeon*, or to *Ishmael*, or *Josephus*, and had made himself Master of it by Bribery. Besides that, *St. Paul* might have learn’d from *Gamaliel* himself, that a Judge, who bought his Office, was not a right Judge, and that there was no respect due to him. *St. Paul* therefore had Reason to say, *I did not acknowledge that he was the High-Priest.*

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ACTS CHAP. XXIII. 47  
Pauls sisters son discovers the plot of the Jews.



ACTS 23. Verse 16. 291.  
*And when Pauls sisters son heard of  
their lying in wait, he went and entered  
into the castle, and told Paul.*

ving that there is another Life after this, which is a pure Pharisaical Doctrine; which all of that Sect do hold as well as I.' This Speech of *Paul's* increas'd the Division, the Doctors of the Law, who were generally Pharisees, taking his part, and declaring him innocent; saying, 'If God hath revealed this to him, let us not oppose the Will of God.' But their Dispute turning to a direct Tumult, the Commandant of the Guard fearing *Paul* would be destroy'd in this Confusion, order'd the Soldiers to take him away by force, and carry him to the Tower. Where the Night following he saw a Vision; God appeared standing by him, and encouraging him, said, 'Fear not *Paul*, for as thou hast avow'd and defended the Faith of Christ here at *Jerusalem*, so shalt thou do at *Rome*.' This particular Regard of the divine Goodness in *Paul's* Protection was immediatey verified, in spite of the insidious Malice of his Enemies: For early the next Morning above forty *Jews* enter'd into a Conspiracy to murder hm, taking an Oath not to eat nor drink till they had dispatch'd him. These *Russians* going to the *Sanhedrin*, acquainted them with their Design, and put them in a Method of finishing it thus: 'Do you signify to the Commandant, that you must examine *Paul* upon some Interrogatories, and order him to bring *Paul* before you; and by the Way before he come to the Council, we will lie in Ambush, and be sure to kill him.' This they agreed upon; but God had otherwise determined. For *Paul's* Nephew hearing of their intended Ambuscade, hastes to the Castle to give his Uncle timely notice. Which he no sooner knew, but he called to the Captain of the Guard, and desired him to conduct the young Man to the Commandant, to whom he had something of Importance to communicate. The Captain very obligingly did as *Paul* desired, and withdrawing left them together. Then the Commandant taking the Youth aside, asked his Business; who acquaints him with the *Jews* Design upon *Paul's* Life, desiring his Protection



for his Uncle. The Commandant hearing the whole Story, obliges the Youth to silence, and dismisses him: Then calling for two Captains, he bid them get their Companies in readiness for an Expedition, and to take to their Assistance seventy Horse, and a Mule for *Paul* to ride on, and convey him to *Felix* the Governor, to whom he wrote a Letter giving him an Account of the whole Affair, referring the Determination of *Paul's* Case to him. This is immediately put in execution, and that Night they attended *Paul* as far as *Antipatris*; there the Foot left him, and the Horse conducted him to *Casarea*, where the Governor resided, to whom they deliver'd *Paul*, with the Commandant of *Jerusalem's* Letter; which when *Felix* had read, and understanding of what Province *Paul* was a Native, he dismiss'd *Paul's* Guard, and told him he would hear him when his Accusers came; in the mean time securing him in the Hall called *Herod's Hall*.

*Paul* having escaped the Conspiracy of the *Jews* by the Prudence and Care of *Claudius Lysias*, and being now under the Protection of *Felix* Procurator of *Judea*, notwithstanding the *Sanhedrin* and their Ruffians were disappointed, they resolv'd to pursue him as long as he is within reach of their Malice. Five Days therefore after his Arrival at *Casarea*, *Ananias* the High-Priest, with some others of the *Sanhedrin*, and a certain Lawyer named *Tertullus*, came thither, and before *Felix* brought their Information against *Paul*. *Tertullus* being admitted to speak, began his Plea against *Paul* with a flattering Oration to *Felix*, telling him how happy the *Jews* had been in all Places under his Administration, and how thankful they were to him for it. Then begging his Attention in what he had to say against *Paul*, he began thus: 'Most Noble *Felix*, this

' *Paul* we know to be a dangerous Person, possessing  
' the Minds of the People wherever he comes, and  
' disposing them to Commotions and Seditions against  
' the present Government of the *Romans*. Besides, he  
' is a great Promoter of the Religion of those that are  
' ordinarily

ordinarily called *Nazarens*, from Jesus that dwelt at *Nazareth*: And he hath done such Things in the Temple of the *Jews* at *Jerusalem*, as are absolutely contrary to the Laws of our God; for which we seized him, and would have punish'd him as our Laws direct, for bringing Strangers beyond that Court of the Temple that was assigned them. But as we were about to proceed against him, the Captain of the Temple would not permit us in our own Court, but sent him away with a Guard, and cited some of the *Sanbedrin* to come hither and accuse him before thee; to whom we leave the Determination of the whole matter.' To this Accusation the *Jews* assented, and confirmed the Truth of all that *Tertullus* had asserted. Who having thus deliver'd his Charge, *Paul* by Order of the Governor made his Defence. 'I am the more ready to answer for my self before thee, because thou hast been some Years the Procurator of this Nation. Be pleased to know, that about twelve Days ago I went up to *Jerusalem* to keep the Feast of Pentecost, where I behaved my self very orderly and quietly, causing no Disturbance, and raising no Sedition either in the City or Synagogue. But as for that part of the Accusation, that I am a Promoter of the Sect of the *Nazarens*, as they call it, I own, that that Way of worshipping the God of *Abraham*, which Christ hath taught, and the Christians practise, is the Way that I use, in which I act agreeably to the Law of *Moses*, and those Writings of Authority among the *Jews* which they esteem as binding. And the main Part of this is, that there shall be a Life after this, and that all that have lived here, shall then be judged and rewarded or punished. This is what most of them believe and depend on. And in this Religion and Practice I am careful to live blamelessly, and do my Duty in all things towards God and Man. As for what they mention of my profaning the Temple, thus it was: Many Years after my Conversion to this Way that I speak of, I was sent by the pious *Jews* of  
other

' other Parts to *Judea* and *Jerusalem*, with their Cha-  
 ' rity and Free-will Oblations, brought in for the  
 ' Service of God. And whilst I was doing thus, some  
 ' *Jews* of *Asia* saw me in the Temple, where I was so  
 ' far from profaning it, that I did nothing but what the  
 ' Law required of me, without any Tumult or Disor-  
 ' der. Or if any Man would affirm I had this way  
 ' offended, he ought to come now in open Court, and  
 ' witness against me. Nay, I appeal to my Enemies  
 ' here present, whether, when I was brought before  
 ' the Council at *Jerusalem*, I was not dismiss'd with-  
 ' out any Thing of Moment charged and proved a-  
 ' gainst me. There is, I am sure, but one Thing can  
 ' be urged against me, and that none but the Saddu-  
 ' ces will charge me with, which is, the acknowledg-  
 ' ing the Resurrection, and that is chargeable on the  
 ' Pharisees as well as me.' When *Felix* had thus heard  
 the matter on both Sides, he put them off, saying  
 ' When I know more exactly the Nature of the Questio-  
 ' on concerning the Christian Religion and your Law,  
 ' I will determine: and as to the Tumult said to be  
 ' rais'd by *Paul*, when *Lysias* comes, his Evidence  
 ' will decide it.' Then breaking up the Assembly, he  
 remanded *Paul* to Prison, permitting any Friend to  
 visit and assist him.

A few Days after this Hearing, *Drusilla* the Wife of  
*Felix*, and a *Jew*, coming to *Cesarea*, *Felix* had a mind  
 to have her hear *Paul*; and sending for him, he desired  
 him to let them hear what he could say in defence of  
 the Doctrine or Gospel of Christ. And *Paul*, in a Dis-  
 course of that Subject, insisted particularly on the great  
 Obligation of observing Justice between Man and  
 Man, and to live chastly either in a conjugal or single  
 State, (two Virtues to which *Felix's* Temper was quite  
 contrary) and withal of the severe Judgment that  
 Men should be one Day called to for their Offences  
 these and the like kinds. And as he insisted on these  
 three Branches of the Christian Faith, wherein *Felix*  
 was so much concern'd, he trembled; and being unea-

ly to hear such Doctrine as stung his Conscience to the quick, he abruptly broke *Paul* off, bidding him depart for that time, and that he would hear him again some other time. *Paul* having continued in Custody two Years in the Procuratorship of *Felix*, *Felix* was by *Nero* removed from his Place, and *Portius Festus* succeeded him: And though *Felix* had no reason to treat *Paul* unkindly, yet being a Man that had practised much Cruelty and Injustice in his Government, and a great Lover of Money, whether gain'd by Bribery, Extortion, or otherwise, yet either because *Paul* did not offer him Money to procure his Liberty, or whether it was merely to gratify the *Jews* at parting, he left *Paul* in Prison.

*Festus* had not been enter'd three Days upon his Government, but he went from *Cæsarea* to *Jerusalem*, when the High-Priest and other Members of the *Sanhedrin* accused *Paul* before him, and very pressingly solicited the Governor to send for him to *Jerusalem*, intending to lay an Ambuscade in the Way to kill him. But *Festus*, not over-fond of granting Favours to the *Jews*, told them he had left *Paul* in Prison at *Cæsarea*, whether he himself should shortly go, and hear the Cause betwixt them, bidding those that were concerned appear against him there. *Festus*, after ten Days Stay at *Jerusalem*, returned to *Cæsarea*; and the Court being sat, *Paul* was brought before him, the *Jews* accusing him of many Crimes, but proving nothing; for he cleared himself of the Accusation, making it plainly appear that he had not offended against the *Mosaical* Law, the Sanctity of the Temple, or the *Roman* Government. But notwithstanding *Paul*'s Innocence, *Festus*, willing to oblige the *Jews*, thought his putting the Question to *Paul* to be tried at *Jerusalem* would have sufficiently induced him to consent. But *Paul*, too sensible of the Malice of his Enemies, and which he some time since escaped, was unwilling to trust himself in their Power, which he found he could no way do but by pleading his Privilege of being a *Roman*. 'I



‘ am, says he, a *Roman*, and ought not to be judged by  
 ‘ the *Jewish Sanhedrin* or Laws, which I have not vio-  
 ‘ lated, but by the *Roman*. If I have done any thing  
 ‘ which by the *Roman* Laws is worthy of Death, I  
 ‘ desire no Mercy : But if their Accusations are inva-  
 ‘ lid, and I free from that Charge of having wronged  
 ‘ them, and being a *Roman* besides, I see no Reason  
 ‘ why I should be deliver’d up to mine Enemies, and  
 ‘ make them my Judges. To prevent which I appeal  
 ‘ to *Cæsar*.’ *Festus*, finding *Paul* resolute in maintain-  
 ‘ ing his Privilege, conferred with those of the *Jewish*  
 ‘ *Sanhedrin*, that came to the Trial ; and not daring to  
 ‘ refuse *Paul*’s Appeal, he tells him, *Since thou hast appeal-*  
 ‘ *ed to Cæsar, to Cæsar thou shalt go.*

Some time after this, *Agrippa*, who succeeded *Herod* in the *Tetrarchate* of *Galilee*, with his Sister *Bernice*, came to *Cæsarea* to pay a Visit to *Festus*, who acquaints *Agrippa* with *Paul*’s Case in short thus : ‘ There is a  
 ‘ certain Man left in Custody by *Felix*, against whom  
 ‘ the *Jews* brought an Information, and immediately  
 ‘ demanded Judgment. But I told them it was not  
 ‘ the Custom of the *Romans* to pronounce Sentence of  
 ‘ Death against any Man before he be confronted  
 ‘ with his Accusers, and have liberty to make his  
 ‘ Defence, and that therefore they must of necessity  
 ‘ come to me here ; which they did, and the Man ap-  
 ‘ peared innocent. That, on which the *Jews* chiefly  
 ‘ insisted, was some disputable matter about his par-  
 ‘ ticular way of serving or worshipping God, and  
 ‘ whether one *Jesus* were still dead, or whether he was  
 ‘ risen again, as affirmed. But I making some scruple  
 ‘ whether it were fit for me to give Sentence in this  
 ‘ matter, or whether it were not better for me to re-  
 ‘ fer him to the *Jewish Sanhedrin* to be tried there, *Paul*  
 ‘ appealed to *Cæsar*, and claimed his Privilege of be-  
 ‘ ing a *Roman*, that he might not be delivered up to  
 ‘ the *Jews*. Whereupon I remanded him to Prison till  
 ‘ I could conveniently send him to *Rome* to *Cæsar*.’  
 This Account of *Paul* raised a Curiosity in *Agrippa* to see



see him, in which *Festus* promised to gratify him the next Day, when *Agrippa*, *Bernice*, and *Festus*, appeared with a great Retinue. The Company being seated, *Festus* sent for *Paul*, whom he introduc'd in this manner: ' This is the Man, O King *Agrippa*, against whom the *Jews* in general have made a Complaint as against a most notorious Malefactor. But when I understood he had committed no capital Crime, and that he had appealed to the Emperor at Rome, thither I have determin'd to send him. And being uncertain what to write concerning him to the Emperor, I have brought him forth before this Assembly, and especially before your Majesty, O King *Agrippa*, that after due Examination I might have something to write: For it would look preposterous to send a Man a Prisoner, and not charge him with a Crime.' When *Festus* had ended, *Agrippa* told *Paul* he had liberty to speak; who desiring silence of the Audience, began his Speech with this Apology for himself: ' I cannot but think my self happy, O King *Agrippa*, in that I am permitted to make my Defence against the Accusation laid by the *Jews* before your Majesty, whom I know to be a perfect Master of the *Jewish* Laws and Customs; for which Reason I beg your Patience.

' My manner of Life from my Youth, which was among the *Jews* at *Jerusalem*, they all know; that I was a Pharisee, a Sect the strictest of all others in the *Jewish* Religion. And accordingly now I am accused for asserting the Resurrection of the Dead, which, as it is a Doctrine acknowledged by the Pharisees, so it is a fundamental Promise made by God of old, generally depended on by the *Jews*, and in hopes of which they spend their Time in Piety and Obedience to God: And yet for believing and expecting this, I am accused by these *Jews*. Why should it be an incredible Thing with you, that God who is omnipotent, should raise the Dead? I confess I was once of Opinion, that I was obliged to persecute this Pro-

' fession

' fession and Doctrine of Christ, which I did in *Jeru-*  
 ' *salem*, and many holy Men and Women I hurried  
 ' to Prison, the Chief Priests authorizing me; and  
 ' when any of them were put to death, I was consent-  
 ' ing to, and active in it. And in other Cities besides  
 ' *Jerusalem* I brought them to the Courts of Judica-  
 ' ture, and used most severe Means to make them deny  
 ' Christ, and was so fierce against them that I forced  
 ' them to flee to Heathen Cities, and then persued  
 ' them thither. And this I was going to repeat, when  
 ' from the *Sanhedrin* I receiv'd Authority to go to *Da-*  
 ' *mascus*; but at Noon-Day, O King, I saw a Light  
 ' from Heaven, far exceeding that of the Sun, which,  
 ' I unable to bear, struck me and those that accompa-  
 ' nied me to the Ground: and straightway a Voice in  
 ' the *Hebrew* 'Tongue, calling me by my Name, admo-  
 ' nish'd me to forbear my cruel persecuting Temper,  
 ' telling me I was from that time chosen to be a  
 ' Preacher and Promoter of that Doctrine I had before  
 ' persecuted, and indeavour'd to stifle; and gave me  
 ' Commission to publish the Gospel to the *Gentiles*, to  
 ' instruct them in their Duty, to turn them from their  
 ' idolatrous Worship to the Service of the true God,  
 ' that by Repentance they might receive Forgiveness  
 ' of their Sins, and believing in Christ enjoy an eter-  
 ' nal Portion of Bliss among the Saints of God. And  
 ' for this I was assaulted, and in danger of being kil-  
 ' led in the Temple. But God rescued me, and by  
 ' his blessed Assistance I continue my Duty, preaching  
 ' nothing in effect but what is perfectly agreeable to  
 ' the Writings of *Moses* and the Prophets, who fore-  
 ' told that Christ should be put to Death, and that by  
 ' his rising again both *Jews* and *Gentiles* should be  
 ' brought to believe in him.' Here *Festus* interrupting  
 ' *Paul*, said, 'Thou talkest distractedly, thy Learning  
 ' and Fondness of this Opinion have put thee out of  
 ' thy Wits.' But *Paul* replied, 'I am in my perfect  
 ' Senses, most noble *Festus*, and what I say is true,  
 ' without Excess or Transportation. I appeal to King  
 ' *Agrippa*,

' *Agrippa*, before whom I take this Freedom of Speech, and am confident he knows this to be true. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ, were Things of publick Cognizance, and cannot be a Secret to him that was a *Jew* born. Believeest thou the Prophets, O King? I am satisfied thou dost; and knowest their Predictions to be fulfilled.' This was so home a Challenge to *Agrippa*, that in the publick Presence he declared, 'Indeed, *Paul*, thou dost in some degree persuade me that the Christian Faith is true.' To which *Paul* readily and chearfully replied, 'I heartily wish and pray, for thine own sake, that not only in a low, but eminent Degree, both thou and all here present were as far Christians as I am, without this slavish Imprisonment.' Upon this the Assembly broke up; and when *Agrippa* and *Festus* had consulted together about *Paul's* Case, they freely own'd that the Accusation laid against him was not punishable by Death or Imprisonment, the Emperors having not as yet made any Edict against Christians, and that, if he had not appealed to *Rome*, he ought to have been discharged.

And now an Opportunity offering, *Festus* sends *Paul* to *Rome*, under a Guard commanded by one *Julius*, in a Ship belonging to *Adramyrium*, a Sea-Port of *Mysia*; and taking *Aristarchus* of *Thessalonica* with them, they coasted along *Asia* till they arrived at *Sidon*, where *Julius*, who treated *Paul* very respectfully, gave him leave to go ashore and refresh himself. Sailing from thence, they came in sight of *Cyprus*, where they were to lie by a-while; but the Winds presenting, they passed the Seas of *Cilicia* and *Pamphylia*, and came to *Myra*, a maritime City of *Lycia*. Here *Julius* finding a Ship belonging to *Alexandria* bound for *Italy*, took his Charge on board her, and with much ado made *Salome*, a City of *Crete*, from whence after many Days slow Sailing they arriv'd at the *Fair-Havens* near *Lasea*; where *Paul* persuaded Captain *Julius* to wait for more seasonable Weather, for they had been long beating at Sea with contrary Winds and very stormy Weather: But notwithstanding

withstanding *Paul's* Advice was propheticall, telling them that if they thus obstinately persued the Voyage, they would not only hazard the Ship and the Goods, but also their Lives; yet *Julius* preferring the Master of the Ship's Judgment, they put to Sea, intending to reach *Phœnice*, a Harbour of *Crete*, where there was safe riding, and there to winter; and the Wind blowing gently at South, they question'd not in the least to gain their Point. But they were soon mistaken; for the Wind suddenly tacking about, blew so very hard at North-East, that they were forced to drive before the Wind. And coming under a little Island called *Clauda*, they had like to have lost their Boat, but with much ado recovering it, they hoisted it into the Ship; and being not able to carry any Sail, they lower'd them upon Deck, and so drove at the mercy of the Winds. But the Storm continuing, the next Day they lighten'd the Ship, and the Day following they were forced to cut their Masts by the Board, and throw all their Tackle over-board. And now the Storm increasing, and neither Sun nor Stars for many Days appearing, they despaired of escaping. Which *Paul* seeing, spoke thus to the Company: *Sirs, had you taken my Advice in staying at Crete, ye had not run this Hazard; but take Comfort, for we shall suffer no Loss but that of the Ship. This I can assure you from the Mouth of God, who this Night appeared to me by his Angel, saying, Fear not Paul, for thou must be brought before Cæsar, and God hath for thy sake granted Life and Safety to all them that are with thee in the Ship. Wherefore be of good Cheer, for I am confident this Vision will be made good, coming from God, as it certainly doth. But one Passage more I received in this Vision, That after Shipwrack we shall be cast upon a certain Island. Driving thus for fourteen Days at the mercy of the Wind and Waves, about Midnight the Sailors fancied they were near Land, and throwing the Lead they sound- ed, and found it twenty Fathoms; then fifteen; and it being Night, and apprehending they might strike upon some Shelves in the dark, they threw four An- chors*



chors a-stern, and waited for Day. And now the Seamen resolving to shift for themselves, had hoisted the Boat over-board, pretending to moor the Ship afore, as they had done abaft. But *Paul* said to Captain *Julius*, *Though I told you that no one Person in the Ship should perish, yet it was upon condition that you would believe and trust God for your Preservation, and that the Seamen tarry in the Ship, and do their Duty, and not endeavour their Escape by the Boat; which if they do, you will all be in danger of your Lives.* Upon this the Soldiers, to prevent the Seamen's Design, cut the Ropes, and let the Boat drop. And in the Space between that and Day-break *Paul* advised them to refresh themselves with Food, telling them they had so sollicitously attended the Fate of this fourteenth Day, as the special critical Time, that they had no Leisure or Thought of eating, and so had fasted till that time of Night, eating (n) nothing all the Day before. Therefore, saith he, *I advise you all now to eat, for you will escape the Danger, and refreshing your selves, will be the better able to bear the Difficulties you are to expect.* Then he set them an Example, taking Bread, and blessing God, they all eat, and were refreshed; and the Number of all that were in the Ship was two hundred seventy six, including Soldiers and Passengers. After this Refreshment they fell chearfully to work, unloading the Ship not only of Goods, but of the Provisions, and throwing them into the Sea. When it was Day they discover'd a Creek and a Haven, into which they endeavour'd to put; and when they had weigh'd the Anchors, they made to the Shore, and run the Ship a-ground. The Soldiers seeing Land

(n) *Nothing.* He that is said to fast, is he that eateth nothing all Day long; and so 'tis explain'd here, *Acts* 27. 33. *Having taken nothing.* The Meaning therefore of this Place (without any Miracle of subsisting without Nourishment fourteen Days together) is to be gathered from the former Part of the Period, *Expecting this Day the fourteenth Day*, that is, waiting to see the Success of this Day; which it seems,

in the Opinion of the Mariners, was the critical Day to them, their Danger was then at the highest, and they were not likely to out-live it, and so there was no Use of Eating, and if they escap'd this Day, they might then possibly hope; and upon these Considerations they eat nothing that Day; they had no Leisure to consider Hunger, when their greater Danger, and more instant Fear was Drowning.

near,



near, advised the Captain to kill the Prisoners, lest they should escape; but he would not listen to them, having a great mind to save *Paul*, to whom he continued his former respectful Carriage: and therefore commands them that could swim to throw themselves into the Sea first, and the rest on broken Planks and Pieces got safe to Land. Where, when they were all arrived safe, they knew the Place to be the Island *Melita*, or *Malta*. The Islanders seeing them in Distress, treated them with great Humanity, making Fires to warm their wet and weary Limbs, and shewing them all the Offices of Civility and Charity. Whilst they were drying and warming themselves, a Viper, driven from her Hole by the Heat of the Fire, leaped out, and fasten'd upon *Paul's* Hand: Which, when the Natives saw, they immediately concluded him guilty of Murder, and that divine Vengeance had pursued him to that Place, to die by the Bite of this venomous Creature: But he shook it off into the Fire, and felt no harm; which they seeing, soon alter'd their Opinion, and concluded him a God.

Near this Place was the Residence of *Publius*, the Governor of the Island, who received and entertain'd this shipwreck'd Company with great Civility and Hospitality for three Days; in which time *Paul* hearing that the Governor's Father lay dangerously ill of a Fever and a Bloody-Flux, he went to his Apartment, and praying by him, laid his Hands upon him, and healed him. The Rumour of this miraculous Cure soon spread through the Isle, and those that were afflicted with any Disease were brought to *Paul*, and he restored them to their Health and Strength. This increased *Paul's* Fame, insomuch that his Companions and Fellow-sufferers were the better for it, being for his sake highly caress'd and entertain'd: And when they left *Malta*, they receiv'd many Marks of Esteem from the Inhabitants, who presented them with all Necessaries proper for their Voyage.

Having

Having tarried at *Malta* three Months, they took Shipping in a Vessel of *Alexandria*, that had winter'd there, that was called the *Dioscouri*; and sailing from thence to *Syracuse* in *Sicily*, they tarried there three Days, and thence to *Rhegium* in *Italy*, and so in two Days to *Puteoli*, where they found some Christian Professors, who importun'd them very much to stay a Week with them, after which they advanced towards *Rome*; and being come as far as *Appii-Forum*, and the (o) *Three-Taverns*, the Christians in *Rome* hearing of *Paul's* Approach went out to meet him; and when they were come to *Rome*, *Julius* delivered the other Prisoners to the Captain of the Guard, but let *Paul* stay in a private House, only with a Soldier to guard him.

After *Paul* had been three Days at *Rome*, he desir'd to speak with the Rulers of the Consistory which the *Jews* had at *Rome*. To whom *Paul* address'd himself in this manner: 'Countrymen, though I have done nothing contrary to the Laws or Customs of the *Jews*, yet was I by the *Jews* apprehended and accus'd before the *Roman* Procurator; who, when he had examined me, would have discharg'd me, finding no capital Accusation brought against me. But the *Jews* opposing it, I was forced to appeal to *Cesar*, to get out of their Hands, and to clear my self, not to lay any thing to the Charge of any of my Countrymen. And this is the Cause of my desiring to speak with you; for I am imprison'd as you see for asserting the Resurrection of the Dead, which is the Result of all the Promises of God to the *Jews*, and that on which every true *Israelite* depends.' Then they said to him, 'We have no Letters from *Judea* that mention thee, neither have the Christian *Jews*

(o) *Three Taverns*. This is the Proper Name of a Town or City, and not to be render'd an *Inn* or *Vitrualling-House*, but (as all other Proper Names) is in Reason to continue without any Alteration. *Taberna* was the Name of the frontier Towns, which were built against the Inroads and Insults of the *Barbarians*. The Place here mention-

ed was an Episcopal See, and an eminent City in *Constantine's* Time, where among the nineteen Bishops delegated by *Constantine*, to decide the Controversy between *Donatus* and *Cacilianus*, *Felix de Tribus Tabernis*, *Felix* Bishop of the *Three-Taverns* is reckoned.

' made

‘ made any Complaint against thee. But we desire to  
‘ hear thy Opinion more at large ; for as concerning  
‘ this Profession and Doctrine of Christianity, we  
‘ know it is generally opposed by our Brethren the  
‘ *Jews.*’ Whereupon a Day was appointed, and there  
came many *Jews* to his Lodging, to whom he preach-  
ed and explained the Doctrine of the Gospel, demon-  
strating from the Law of *Moses*, and the Prophecies  
that were of force among the *Jews*, the Agreeable-  
ness and Truth of the whole Christian Religion. Up-  
on the Result of the matter some believ’d, and others  
did not ; and when by reason of this Difference some  
warm Disputes arose betwixt them, as they departed  
*Paul* told them, ‘ That this Unbelief of theirs was a  
‘ Thing which the Prophet *Isaiah* punctually foretold,  
‘ saying, *This People will not receive the Gospel ; for they*  
‘ *have contracted a perfect Habit of Obstinacy and wilful*  
‘ *Deafness, that they will not hearken to any Ways of Re-*  
‘ *formation that should make them capable of Mercy.* Be  
‘ assured then that we are not obliged longer to con-  
‘ tend with your obdurate Temper, but we will preach  
‘ the Gospel to the Heathens, who will gladly lay  
‘ hold on this offer’d Mercy.’ And upon this they  
parted, the *Jews* continuing their Heat in their Dis-  
course as they took leave. And *Paul* continued free  
from close Confinement, living in his hired House for  
two Years, preaching the Gospel to all that came to  
him with all Freedom and Openness, none offering  
any Molestation or Restraint.

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T H E  
P R O E M  
T O T H E  
R E V E L A T I O N S :

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THE first Verse of this Book in these Words, *Which must presently come to pass,* or, *Shortly be done,* plainly offers it self as a Key to the whole Prophecy. For notwithstanding the Opinions of many who have calculated these Visions for some particular and later Periods, it will plainly appear that they belong'd to those Times that were then immediately insuing, and that they had accordingly their Completion ; and consequently, that they that pretended to find in these Visions the Predictions of Events in these later Times, and those so precisely defin'd as to belong to particular Acts and Persons in this and some other Kingdoms, have mistaken the Design of them, obtruding their own Fancies for divine Revelations, and adding to the Prophecies of this Book : For which we may assign these Reasons.

1. What is said in the first Verse of the first Chapter is immediately inculcated in the third Verse, *For the Time is at Hand,* and that render'd as a Proof, that these seven Churches, to which the Prophecy was written,

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ten,



were concern'd to observe and consider the Contents of it, *Blessed is he that reads, and he that hears, &c.* for the Time is nigh.

2. In the Close of these Visions, *Ch. 22.* 'tis there again added, That God hath sent his Angel to shew his Servants the Things that must be speedily; and immediately upon this, *Ver. 7. Behold I come quickly,* not in the Notion of his final Coming to Judgment, (which hath caused much Mistake) but of his coming to destroy the *Jews*; and then, as in *Ver. 7. Blessed is he that keeps the Prophecies of this Book,* parallel to what hath been said at the Beginning, *Ch. 1. v. 3.*

3. In *Ch. 22. Ver. 10.* the Command is given to *John* not to seal the Prophecies of the Book; which, that it signifies that they were of present use to those Times, and therefore to be kept open, and not to be laid up as Things that Posterity was principally concern'd in, appears by the Reason subjoin'd, *Because the time is nigh.*

What was Christ's Design, *Ch. 1. Ver. 11.* of sending these Visions in a Book or Letter to the seven Churches, appear'd soon very visibly from plain Words, without any Figure in them, *viz.* That the Christians of those Times being in danger of losing their Constancy and Courage through the Violence of the *Jewish* Persecution, and the subtle Insinuations of the Gnosticks, (who taught that it was lawful to forswear Christ in Time of Persecution) might be fortified by what they here find of the Speediness of God's Revenge on his Enemies, and Deliverance of those that continued constant to him. This is the full Importance of the first and third Chapters, and the same again, *Ch. 22. Ver. 7.* So in the Proem or Salutation by *John* prefixed to this Epistle of Christ, from *Ver. 4. to Ver. 9.* we have these Words, *Behold he cometh with Clouds, &c.* Where the Coming of Christ is a known and solemn Phrase to signify remarkable Judgments or Vengeance on Sinners, and Deliverance for persevering Believers; and the additional mention of *Clouds* refers to God's Presence by Angels, the Ministers of his Power, whether in punishing or protecting.

The



The first Part of that which was thus suddenly to come to pass was the Destruction of *Jerusalem*, which was an opportune Relief to the Christians, who were hotly persecuted by the *Jews*. This appears by the seventh Verse of the first Chapter, where by *as many as pierced Christ* must infallibly be meant the *Jews*.

But besides this Royal Coming of Christ to destroy the impenitent *Jews*, and to rescue the penitent, this Revelation of St. *John* is founded upon our Blessed Saviour's own Words and Predictions: For our Lord says, *Mat. 24. 31. His Angels shall gather the Elect, &c.* which plainly points at the delivering the penitent Christian *Jews*. So *Ch. 6. Ver. 9, 10, 11. The Souls beneath the Altar that cry for Vengeance of all the Blood that was shed in the Land, is a* just parallel to that of *Mat. 23. 35. That on the Jews of that Generation should come all the Blood that had been shed on the Land, &c.* And accordingly all the rest of the sixth Chapter, of the great *Earthquake, the Sun becoming black, the Moon as Blood, and the Stars falling from Heaven, &c.* they are the very particular Expressions in the immediate subsequent Discourse of Christ, *Mat. 24.* So most especially, *Rev. 11. 8. the City where our Lord was crucified is the very Scene of those Tragedies, that is, certainly and literally Jerusalem, called Sodom there, but mystically as the Text mentions. So St. Jerom explains it, saying, From that Time Jerusalem was not called the Holy City, because having lost her former Sanctity and Name, she was spiritually called Sodom and Egypt. But it may perhaps be objected, that this Destruction of Jerusalem was pass'd at the Time of John's receiving and writing this Vision, because it is affirm'd by Eusebius and Irenaus, that it was receiv'd and seen at the End of Domitian's Reign. But this is answer'd by the Opinion of St. Augustin, and several other Fathers, that these Visions were not all Predictions of what was future, but a Recapitulation from the Suffering of Christ, comprehending what had been, what is, and what should be the State of the Church: And this to very good*

purpose; for what was past, to confirm Christians in what was to come, and now further to be declar'd. And it would be no great Objection against this, that it is all set down as a Prophecy; for 'tis no new Thing for Prophecies to speak sometimes of past Things in the future Tense; as *Dan. 7. 17. These great Beasts, which are four, are four Kings, which shall arise out of the Earth*; whereas the *Chaldean Monarchy* was long before ris'n, and now near expiring.

The Destruction of *Jerusalem* under *Titus* was but one Part of this *Coming of Christ*, and bringing Judgments on the *Jews*. There were many bloody Acts of this Tragedy, when that was over: As the Edict of *Domitian* for killing all *David's Kin*: The Severity of *Trajan* against them; when, as *Eusebius* says, *their Calamities came tumbling in upon them: Marcius Turbo* by Sea and Land killing vast Multitudes of *Jews*, whilst *Lucius Æmilius* cleared the Country of *Mesopotamia* of them; insomuch that the Number of *Jews* slain in *Trajan's* Reign amounted to two hundred thousand. And this, if there had been none before, or none to come, might well be styled a *Coming of Christ in the Clouds* against his Crucifiers, a lamentable Judgment on all the Tribes of that Land, and so might own the Expressions in that seventh Verse, and some Part of the following Visions.

After this *Adrian*, *Trajan's* Successor, fell heavily upon them; for the *Jews* under the Conduct of one *Barchocheba*, a Sham-Messias, waging War with the *Romans*, were soon subdued by *Rufus*, Governor of *Judea*, who, without Mercy or Distinction of Age or Sex, destroyed them; and upon the Death of their Ring-leader, the Emperor *Adrian* by an Edict interdicted the *Jews* Return to their City *Jerusalem* again, or so much as to look toward it. To which end the Foundations of the Temple were ploughed up by *Rufus*, (by which our Saviour's Prophecy, of *not one Stone upon another being left*, was literally fulfilled) the City rebuilt and inhabited by *Romans*, and named *Ælia* from

from *Ælius Adrianus*: And to spite the *Jews* the more, it is said the Statue of a Swine was set over the Gate, to reproach the *Jews*, and banish their very Eyes from it. And this was another Passage which might well be referred to as Matter of mournful Spectacle to all the Tribes of *Judea*, and as mournfully represented in some of the Visions.

Nor were the unbelieving *Jews* the only Men to whom the Destruction here in these Visions did belong, but the vile erroneous Christians, as the *Gnosticks*, and other Hereticks among them, who, as *Eusebius* observes, came to nothing presently.

As to the Matter of the ensuing Visions, the Reader may take this short Scheme, *viz.* That after the Preface in the first Chapter, to *Ver. 10.* and the Visions about the seven Churches of *Asia*, each of them set down distinctly, *Ch. 2. Ver. 3.* this Book contains, First, The Proceedings of God with the *Jews*, from the fourth to the twelfth Chapter. Secondly, the Infancy and Growth of the Church of Christ in order from the Heathen World, till it came through great Oppressions to get Possession of the *Roman Empire*, partly by destroying, partly by converting the Heathen Idolaters, from the twelfth to the twentieth Chapter. Thirdly, The peaceable flourishing State of the Church for a thousand Years, and after that the Breaking-out of the *Turk*, and harassing the *Eastern Churches*, briefly touch'd, together with their Destruction, and the End of the World, most rhetorically described from *Chap. 20.* to the sixth Verse of *Chap. 22.* And from thence to the End of the Book a formal Conclusion of the whole Matter.

The next Thing we are to speak of is the Title of the Book, and of the Author. The Title of this Book, affixed by the Church of the first Ages, was *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, ordinarily now *The Revelation of John the Divine*: Which Difference is to be reconciled, not by making one of them to refer to the Person that received, the other to him that gave

the Revelation, (for as *John* received it from Christ, so Christ also received it from his Father, and therefore it is added here, *Ver. 1. Which God gave him*) but it must be by distinguishing of the Time and Manner of these Revelings. God formerly revealed these Events to Christ the Son of Man, as the Mediator by him now designed to convey all Knowledge and Grace to us; and this he did when Christ enter'd on his prophetick Office, (long before the Time here specified;) From whence it was that Christ, whilst here on Earth, foretold many of the Particulars represented in his Prophecy, especially that of the Destruction of the unbelieving *Jews*. And in this Respect this whole Book is intituled, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, that is, that Prophecy which Jesus Christ received from his Father, as the Vision of *Isaiah*, &c. is the Prophecy which *Isaiah* received from God, or that God gave to *Isaiah*. And then as Christ thought fit to give a Representation of this to his beloved Disciple *John*, and so *John* receiv'd it as a Prophecy to deliver it to others, it is properly here in the Title styled *The Revelation of John*, who receiv'd it in Vision or Ecstasy, *Ver. 10.* by the Angel from Christ, as Christ receiv'd it from his Father.

As to the Title of *Divine* here given to *John*, the Writer of these Visions, and not of *Apostle*, it is not from any Imagination of those that affixed it, that the *Apostle* was not the Writer of them, but because that Title of *Divine* was by the Ancients, *Origen* especially, bestowed on this *Apostle* in respect of the Divinity and sublime Manner of Writing, observable in his Gospel, and particularly because he began it with setting down the Divinity of Christ, *The Word of God*; whereas the other Evangelists begin with his Birth or Humanity.

As to the Time of *John's* writing this Book of the *Revelations*, it was during his Confinement in *Patmos*. It was of old not only rejected by Hereticks, but controverted by many of the Fathers. *Dionysius*, Bishop of



of *Alexandria*, has a very large Discourse concerning it: He tells us, that many plainly disown'd this Books not only for the Matter, but the Author of it, as being neither Apostle, nor any Holy or Ecclesiastick Person; that *Cerintus* prefixt *John's* Name to it, to give the more plausible Title to his Dream of Christ's Reign on Earth, and that sensual and carnal State that should attend it: That for his part he durst not reject it, looking upon it as containing wise and admirable Mysteries, though he could not comprehend them, rather admiring than condemning what he could not understand; that he own'd the Author to have been an holy and divinely-inspir'd Person, but could not believe it to be *John* the Apostle and Evangelist, neither the Style, Matter, nor Method agreeing with his other Writings; that in this Book he frequently names himself, which he never does in any other; that there were several *Johns* at that Time, and two buried at *Ephesus*, the Apostle and another, one of the Disciples that dwelt in *Asia*; but which should be the Author of this Book he leaves uncertain.

But however this Book was doubted by some, it was entertained by the far greater Part of the Ancients as the genuine Work of our St. *John*. Nor could the setting down his Name be any reasonable Exception; for whatever he might do in his other Writings, especially his Gospel, where it was less necessary, historical Matters depending not so much upon his Authority; yet it was otherwise in prophetick Revelations, where the Person of the Revealer adds great Weight and Moment to what he writes; which is the Reason why some of the Prophets under the *Old Testament* did so often mention their own Names.

The Diversity of the Style is of no great Consideration, it being no wonder, if in Arguments so vastly different the same Person did not always observe the same Tenor and Way of Writing, of which there want not Instances in some others of the Apostolick Order.



The Truth is, all Circumstances concur to intitle our Apostle to be the Author of it ; his Name frequently expressed, its being written in the Island of *Patmos*, (a Circumstance not compatible to any but *St. John*) his styling himself their Brother and Companion in Tribulation, and in the Kingdom and Patience of Jesus Christ, his writing particular Epistles to the seven Churches of *Asia*, all planted, or at least cultivated by him, the Doctrine suitable to the Apostolick Spirit and Temper, evidently bearing Witness in this Case.

That which seems to have given ground to doubt concerning both its Author and Authority, was its being long before it was usually joined with other Books of the Holy Canon: For containing in it some Passages directly levell'd at *Rome*, the Seat of the *Roman* Empire, others which might be thought to symbolize with some *Jewish* Dreams and Figments; it might possibly seem fit to the Prudence of those Times for a while to suppress it. Nor is the Conjecture of *Grotius* in his *Annot. in c. 1. Joan.* to be despised, who thinks that it might be intrusted to the keeping of *John* the Presbyter, Scholar to our Apostle; from which probably might arise, that he who was only the Keeper, was the Author of it.

I shall add no more than that upon the Account of this Book of *Revelations*, containing a prophetick Scheme of the future State of the Christian Church, the Author, *John*, is in a strict Sense a Prophet; and has by that one considerable Addition to his Titles, being not only an Apostle and Evangelist, but a Prophet, an Honour peculiar to himself. *Peter* was an Apostle, but properly no Evangelist; *Mark* was an Evangelist, but no Apostle; *Matthew* an Evangelist and Apostle, but no Prophet: But *John* was both an Apostle, an Evangelist, and a Prophet.



## REVELATIONS.

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### *The First Vision.*



OD the Father having given the following Revelation or Vision to his Son Jesus Christ, thought fit to send a Symbolical Representation of it by an Angel to *John* his most beloved Disciple, that he might discover to the World some Things which were suddenly to come to pass. Which Honour was imparted to *John*, as a peculiar Mark of his Lord's Esteem; who in many Instances distinguished him during his Life-time; for he not only in common with the rest of the Apostles attested the Word of God, the Doctrine, Sufferings and Resurrection of Christ, but mentions some Particulars which he peculiarly saw, not taken notice of by others. These Revelations he dedicates to the seven Churches of *Asia*, which he greets with Grace from the eternal God, and the Angels which wait on him, and from Jesus Christ, the most illustrious of the Dead, and Sovereign of the Kings of the Earth.

The first Vision which this Holy Apostle had the Honour to see, was on this manner. During his Confinement in the Isle of *Patmos*, being on a Lord's Day secluded from the Society of Men, he fell into an Ecstasy, and heard a Voice as loud as the Sound of a Trumpet behind him, which said, he that spake  
was

was the eternal God, who commanded him to write down what he shou'd see, and send it to the seven Churches in *Asia*, viz. to that of *Ephesus* the Metropolis, to *Smyrna*, *Pergamos*, *Thyatira*, *Sardis*, *Philadelphia*, and *Laodicea*. *John* hearing the Voice behind him, turned to see who it was, when to his great Surprise he saw seven golden Candlesticks, and in the midst of them one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long Robe, and girded with a golden Girdle: His Hair was white as Snow, his Eyes sparkling like Fire, his Feet shining like the purest Brass, and his Voice was as the Noise of the great Waters. He had seven Stars in his Hand, out of his Mouth there came a sharp Sword, and his Countenance was like the Sun at Noon-Day. The favourite Disciple being struck with Fear and Amazement at this glorious Appearance of his Lord, fell at his Feet as one depriv'd of Life; but he raised him up, bidding him not to fear, telling him that he was the eternal God, even that Christ which lived here upon Earth, and was put to Death, and rose again to Life, and now lives never to die again; that he had all Power over that invisible State and Continuance in Death, and over Death it self. To which Purpose, *saith he*, for evidencing the Truth which I now tell thee, do thou write the Visions thou seest, which are a Representation both of the Things which are now a doing, and of others which shall soon follow. The seven Stars which thou seest, signify so many Governours or Bishops of so many Churches, and the seven Candlesticks the Churches themselves.

To the Church of *Ephesus* and the Bishop thereof *John* was charged with this Message. " I know and  
 " approve your Industry in propagating the Gos-  
 " pel, your constant Patience and Perseverance in the  
 " Faith, your Abhorrence of wicked Men and their  
 " Actions, and your vigilant Care and Discovery of  
 " counterfeit Apostles. You have labour'd under  
 " hard Pressures, Persecutions and Difficulties, with  
 " out

# REVELATIONS. 315

out fainting under the Weight of them: But yet I have something to accuse you of; you have abated much of that fervent Zeal, which did evidence it self in you by your sincere and faithful Profession of Christianity. Recollect therefore that religious Courage, of which you were once possess'd, or else I will suddenly punish you by removing the Light of the Gospel from you. Yet one Thing is to be said in your Praise, that you have not submitted to one Bait of the *Gnosticks*, viz. in Imitation of the (a) *Nicolaitans* to defile your selves, though you have given way to the worldly Sufferings and Persecutions, as the *Gnosticks* persuade and advise, which have corrupted other Churches. Let this therefore warn you of the Terrors in which they shall be involved that persist in Sin, and be assur'd, that they who overcome Temptations and Persecutions, shall have Deliverance here, and hereafter eternal Life bestowed on them."

To the Bishop and Church of *Smyrna* (another Metropolis of *Asia*) *John* was charg'd with this Message. Your Patience and Contentedness under Persecution and Poverty are an Increase of your Treasure: And though they that persecute and calumniate you, call themselves *Jews*, they are not of the Religion of *Moses*, but of the Devil's Institution. Your Con-

(a) *Nicolaitans*. St. Paul had in his Epistle to the *Ephesians*, c. 5. v. 3, 12, fortified the Church of *Ephesus* against this carnal Pollution of the *Nicolaitans*. Who these were, appears by *Eusebius* thus: *Nicolas* the Deacon, mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, having a beautiful Wife, was by the Apostles after Christ's Ascension reproach'd that he was jealous of her, whereupon he brought out his Wife, and gave any that would leave to marry her, saying, That this was agreeable to that Saying, That men ought to abuse the Flesh. His followers laying hold of this Action and Speech simply, and without Ex-

amination of the Meaning of it, saith *Clemens*, commit all kind of Filthiness; without any kind of Shame. The Meaning of *Nicolas's* Speech (though abus'd by his Followers) was, a Disdaining of all that carnal Pleasure so much desired by Men: And it is plain, that his Followers, which are said by *Eusebius* to enter on his Heresy, and are here called *Nicolaitans*, were guilty of all abominable, shameless Uncleaness, and called that *The Abusing of the Flesh*, and so made a Christian Duty of the most abominable Sin, and put off all Shame and Reverence in the Acting of it.

"fancy



# 316 REVELATIONS.

“ constancy to the Faith will raise you Enemies, but arm  
 “ your selves with the Spirit against Persecution, for  
 “ you shall undergo severe Trials, and if you perse-  
 “ vere, your Constancy shall be rewarded with a  
 “ Crown of Life.”

To the Bishop and Church of *Pergamos* write thus,  
 “ I commend thy Christian Behaviour and Constancy,  
 “ which hath eminently appeared in the midst of  
 “ Temptations and Persecutions; but yet there are  
 “ great Faults among you, the *Gnosticks* have with  
 “ their Practices and Doctrines corrupted some of  
 “ you, which are but a Transcript of that famous  
 “ Counsel of *Balaam* to *Balak*, and which brought  
 “ that Curse and Ruin upon the *Israelites*, when no-  
 “ thing else could do it; for they join’d with the  
 “ Idolaters, and committed all abominable Unclean-  
 “ ness. Besides, you connive at, in not punishing,  
 “ the Practisers of the *Nicolaitans* Doctrine, which is  
 “ odious to me. If this Lenity be not speedily mend-  
 “ ed, I will soon visit and destroy you with Judgments  
 “ as terrible as those of the Sword. And for those  
 “ who have kept themselves pure and spotless from  
 “ those Uncleanesses, let them know, that the Plea-  
 “ sures and Comforts they will receive in the Prac-  
 “ tice of Religion and Virtue, will far exceed all car-  
 “ nal Enjoyments, and that over and above they  
 “ should have a Token given them with the Name of  
 “ Christ written on it, signifying the Christian Re-  
 “ ward of Grace and Glory, which none can be capa-  
 “ ble of valuing, but they that enjoy it.”

To the Bishop and Church which is at *Thyatira*, say:  
 “ Christ, that appeared to you so gloriously in token  
 “ of Judicature, knows your Courage, Charity and  
 “ Liberality to the poor Brethren, and your Christian  
 “ Bravery against all Terrors. But you labour under  
 “ one Blemish which eclipses all the Glories of your  
 “ Life, you have permitted the false Doctrines of the  
 “ *Gnosticks*, and communicated in Idol-Worship.  
 “ These Hereticks go on still in their Impieties, and



# REVELATIONS. 317

“ you connive at them; therefore you may expect  
 “ that the Judgments which will suddenly fall on them  
 “ and you, will be very heavy unless by timely Re-  
 “ pentance prevented. But of you in *Thyatira* that  
 “ are free from these Abominations, God requires  
 “ only your Perseverance, till he comes to reward  
 “ your Fidelity and Constancy; who will then make  
 “ use of you to convert the *Gentiles*, and to propa-  
 “ gate the Gospel successfully among the Eastern  
 “ Nations.”

To the Church in *Sardis* thus saith Christ, who hath  
 the Command over the Bishops of the Churches, and  
 the Congregations under them. “ I know your Acti-  
 “ ons, and judge by them, not by your Pretensions;  
 “ for though you profess Christ, yet upon the Ap-  
 “ proach of Persecution you renounce the Faith.  
 “ Endeavour therefore to consummate your Faith  
 “ with that perfect Love, which will enable you to  
 “ confess Christ in the greatest Dangers. This will  
 “ make amends for your former Failings; but if you  
 “ fall off again, expect my Judgments will be sudden  
 “ and unpreventable. I know there are a few in  
 “ *Sardis*, which have not fallen, but confessed and  
 “ suffered for my Name; and these shall not fail of  
 “ the Reward of Martyrs, for they shall be clothed  
 “ with glorious white Garments, and I will own  
 “ them before my Father at the Day of Judgment.”

To the Bishop and Church in *Philadelphia* write thus.  
 “ You have behav’d your selves with a true Christian  
 “ Courage and Constancy, having neither defiled  
 “ your selves with the Impieties of Hereticks, nor  
 “ renounc’d me in Time of Persecution: But for the  
 “ *Gnosticks*, who have joined with the *Jews* in perse-  
 “ cuting you, let them know, that they shall not be  
 “ able to prevail against you, but that they shall be  
 “ subdued and destroyed. And, because you have  
 “ strictly obeyed my Commands, and persevered in  
 “ the Confession of me, even in the Time of Perse-  
 “ cution, I will preserve and deliver you from those  
 “ sharp

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“ sharp Trials which are about to fall upon the Christians every where. And this Patience and Purity of yours I will speedily reward: Be ye therefore constant to me but a little while, that all that you have hitherto suffered be not lost and unrewarded. For he that thus holds out, shall be a Pillar of the Church, and live undisturb’d in the Performance of his Apostleship, and I will own him as a true and faithful Member of the pure Catholick Christian Church, distinguish’d by the Name of the New Jerusalem descending from Heaven.”

To the Bishop and Church of the *Laodiceans* write thus: “ This is the Message of Christ the Amen, in whom all God’s Promises are fulfilled. I have examin’d your Temper, but cannot approve of it; for you profess the Faith of Christ, but have no Christian Zeal to suffer for it: For which Indifference I reject you. A great Opinion ye have of yourselves, that ye are in an excellent State, have need of nothing, and are above all others, when indeed you have nothing of the Christian in you, no Zeal or Fervency of Love towards Christ, never thinking of suffering for him, or getting any Right to the Christian Crown. I advise you therefore to be content to indure some Smart for Christ, that you may obtain the glorious Reward provided for them that suffer for his Name. Contend earnestly for the Faith, that ye may be invested with the Royal Robe of Martyrs; without which you will be still imperfect, and labour under the scandalous Imputation of Cowardise and want of Love. For Ease and Prosperity here are no Signs of God’s Favour; but on the contrary, the Expression of his paternal Love to his Children, is the bestowing some Chastisements upon them, to wean them from the World to his Love. I have long admonish’d you to repent; which if ye will do, your Conversion will be Matter of mutual Joy, and upon your patient Suffering for me, and constant Perseverance in that Love even to Death, ye shall partake of that Honour that my Father hath exalted me to and the Reward of my Sufferings.

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## *The Second Vision.*

OUR Blessed Saviour having thus delivered to *John* by way of Commission, his whole Will and Pleasure concerning the present State of the Church here on Earth, in another Vision shews him the glorious State of the Church Triumphant in Heaven, after this manner. Whilst he was diligently attending to receive the Commands of his Lord, a Door opened in Heaven, and he heard an articulate Voice, but shrill as that of a Trumpet, which said, *Come up hither, and I will shew thee the Things which must be hereafter.* And immediately he was in a Vision transported thither, where he saw a Throne set, and the Appearance of the Majesty that set on it was like the Colour of a Jasper and Sardine Stone. Round this Throne above was a Rainbow plac'd, of an Emerald-colour; and on each Side of the Throne were Chairs, four and twenty in Number, on which sat four and twenty Bishops or Elders clothed in white, with golden Crowns on their Heads. From the Throne were discharged Thunderings, Lightnings, and Voices in a terrible Manner, as when the Law was delivered by God; and seven Angels stood waiting on this Judicature. Before this Tribunal or Throne were brought all the *(b)* People of the *Jews*; and at the Corners of the Throne were the four Ensigns of the Standard of *Israel*, bearing the Images of a Lion, an Ox, a Man, and an Eagle. The Bearers of these Standards had each six Wings, and were full of Eyes, denoting their Gifts of Prophecy given them by God, whose eternal Glory they Night and Day celebrate in this Hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.* While they did this, the four and twenty Elders paid Adoration to the Majesty on the Throne, acknowledging his infinite Pow-

*(b)* People. People in the Text, c. 4. multitude of Waters, Waters signifying  
 15. are expressed by a Sea or Mul- People in the Prophecy, c. 17. v. 15  
 er,

# 320 REVELATIONS.

er, from whom they had received all, which they were bound to employ in his Service, and to trust in him as a most faithful Creator.

After this on the right Side of the Throne, on which the Majesty of God sat, *John* saw a Book written within and without, sealed with seven Seals, and an Angel of special Dignity making Proclamation with a loud Voice in these Words, "Who is worthy to open the Book and break up the Seals of it?" And no Creature in the World could, or dare pretend to it: Which so affected *John* that he burst into Tears; whereupon one of the Elders comforting him, said, "Weep not, for Christ, who in his humane Nature was descended of the Tribe of *Judah* and Family of *David*, having all Power given to him of his Father, would open the Book, and execute the Decrees contained in it." This was further exemplify'd to *John*, for at the same time in the midst between the four Beasts and four and twenty Elders or Bishops, he saw a Lamb which lay slain, that had seven (c) Eyes and seven Horns. This Lamb took the Book out of the right Hand of the Majesty on the Throne, and immediately the four Beasts and four and twenty Elders prostrated themselves before him, having Harps and golden Cups full of Incense and Perfumes, which are the Prayers of the Saints; in whose Names and in their own they sang this Canticle. "Thou art worthy to take the Book and open the Seals thereof, because thou hast suffered Death for us, and redeemed us unto God by thy Blood out of every Nation; making us Kings and Priests to our God, and investing us with the Royal Benignity of serving him." And at the same time an infinite Number of Angels joined in this Hymn of Praise, and said, "All Power, Riches, Wisdom, Strength, Honour, Glory and Blessing, are most worthily attributed to the Lamb." And all other

(c) Eyes, &c. Eyes here signify the Knowledge and Wisdom, as the Horns do the Power of the Lamb to subdue his Enemies,



# REVELATIONS. 321

Creatures in the World made the same Acknowledgment, saying, "To him that sits on the Throne, and to the Lamb, be all Honour and Glory for ever."

The Lamb having received Power to open the seven Seals, one of the four Animals with a loud Voice call'd to *John* to attend: And at the opening of the first Seal he saw a white Horse, and he that rode thereon had a Crown on his Head and a Bow in his Hand, with Power to go out and conquer.

At the Opening of the second Seal *John* saw another Horse of a Blood-colour, representing War; and he that rode thereon was commission'd to imbroid the Land of *Judea* with War: to which Purpose he had a Sword put into his Hand, a Presignification of the Slaughters that should be committed by the *Jews* upon one another.

Upon the opening of the third Seal there appeared a (d) black Horse, and he that sat on him had a Pair of Scales in his Hand, and a loud Voice from among the four Animals proclaim'd; "A Measure of Wheat for a (e) Penny, and three Measures of Barley for a Penny, and see that thou hurt not the Oil and the Wine."

When the fourth Seal was opened there appeared a pale Horse representing Mortality and Pestilence, and the Name of the Rider on it was *Death*, and Hell followed him. To these three, viz. Sword, Famine,

(d) *Black Horse*. By the black Horse was signified Famine, which discolours the Skins of Men, making them to look black and dismal; and to signify this, he that rode on the black Horse had a Balance in his Hand to weigh Corn, as is usual in Time of Scarcity, when Bread is distributed to every one by Weight, that none might have more than what is thought necessary to Life.

(e) *Penny*. The Meaning of this was, that the Scarcity of Corn should be such, that a Penny, which was the Price of a Man's Day's Labour, would buy no more than is wont to be

sufficient for a Man's Food for one Day; and if he did eat all himself, there would be nothing left for his Family: and so in proportion of Barley. Thus in *ch. 6 v. 6*. the Rider on the black Horse with the Scales in his Hand, was an Emblem of Dearth beginning, tho not yet closing upon them; and so is most proper to be apply'd to the Famines in *Judea*, foretold by Christ, *Mat. 24. 7*. which yet were none of them comparable to those horrible Streights of Famine, which beset them afterwards in the Siege of *Jerusalem*, and other Places.

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and Pestilence, was Power given to destroy the fourth Part of the Land of *Judea*, in which they should make a Devastation, that the wild Beasts should increase and be too strong for the Inhabitants there.

When the Lamb opened the fifth Seal, *John* saw under the Altar the Souls of the Martyrs that had been slain for the Profession of the Gospel, who cried with a loud Voice, "How long, O Lord, Holy and True, dost thou forbear to avenge our Blood upon them that dwell upon the Earth?" And they were all clothed with white Robes, and comforted with this Promise, that the Revenge of their Blood was but for a Season deferr'd, till all the Blood-guiltiness of the *Jews* should be filled up, and then Vengeance should come on those impenitent Persecutors.

At the Opening of the sixth Seal there was a Representation of Eclipses both of Sun and Moon, and of an Earthquake, figuratively expressing great Destruction: Which was likewise signified again by an Appearance of falling Stars, dropping from their Orbs like wither'd Fruit, at the Concussion of the Wind. At this dismal Appearance of Horror, all Degrees of Persons were in a sad Consternation; for the Guilt of the Blood of Christ and of his Servants now fell upon them in such Terrors and Aggravations, that they called to the Rocks to fall on and hide them from the Wrath of the Lamb; for the Time was now come, and inevitable Vengeance was falling on them.

After a general View of God's Judgments on the *Jews*, succeeded the particular Executions of them; and the first thing represented to *John* was Christ's peculiar Care for the Preservation of the true Believers from the common Destruction; which is thus expressed in Vision. "I saw (saith he) four Angels who had Power to execute Vengeance on *Judea*, which whilst they were ready to perform, I saw another Angel coming from Christ, with a Commission sealed in his Hand to stop the Process of Destruction till the Orthodox Christians were put into

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# REVELATION CHAP. VI.<sup>48</sup>

The sixth seal is opened.



## REVELATION 6. Verse <sup>323</sup>12.

*And I beheld when he had opened  
the sixth seal, and lo, there was a great  
earthquake, and the sun became black,  
etc.*

# REVELATIONS. 323

“ a Condition of Safety, which was by a Seal or  
 “ Mark of Distinction on their Foreheads; and these  
 “ were to the Number of an hundred forty and four  
 “ thousand, who were by God’s Appointment to be  
 “ secur’d, before the Judgments were to break out  
 “ upon the *Jews*. After this I saw a great Multitude  
 “ of all Nations, who had long laboured under Per-  
 “ secution, clothed in white, with Palms in their  
 “ Hands, praising God and the Lamb for their De-  
 “ liverance; and all the attending Angels, with the  
 “ Elders and four Beasts, prostrated themselves before  
 “ the Throne, and join’d in a joyful Song of Praise  
 “ and Thanksgiving to God. And one of the Elders  
 “ asking me, who they were that appeared in white  
 “ Garments; I told him, I knew not, but desir’d  
 “ to know; who answer’d me, These are the Con-  
 “ fessors (though not Martyrs) that ventured their  
 “ Lives for Christ in confessing him constantly; who  
 “ shall therefore injoy some Tranquillity, and assem-  
 “ ble in Peace to serve him in the Church. They  
 “ shall no more suffer the Rage and Heat of Perse-  
 “ cution, but live peaceably in Christ’s Fold, and  
 “ having sown in Tears, shall now reap in Joy the  
 “ Fruits of their Patience and Perseverance.”

The six Seals, which contain’d the Judgments that  
 were to fall on the *Jews*, being open’d; the Lamb  
 proceeded to open the Seventh; at which there was  
 an universal Silence for the Space of half an Hour, as  
 was usual at the Time of the High-Priest’s Offering  
 in the Sanctuary. After which, to the seven Angels  
 that waited about the Throne were given seven  
 Trumpets; and another Angel, who stood before the  
 Altar, having a Censer fill’d with Odours, offer’d up  
 the Incense, with which the Prayers of the Saints  
 are supposed to ascend to God. Then the Angel took  
 the Censer, and fill’d it with Fire from the Altar; and  
 having thrown it on the Earth, it produc’d terrible  
 Thundrings, Lightnings, and Earthquakes. Upon  
 this, the seven Angels that had the Trumpets prepa-  
 red

# 324 REVELATIONS.

red to sound: And when the first Angel sounded, a violent Storm of Hail mingled with Blood fell on *Judea*, which burnt up a third part of the Earth and the Trees, and consumed every green Herb. Upon the sounding of the second Angel, a burning Mountain appeared, which fell into the Sea, a third part of which was chang'd into Blood, and a third part of the Fish and Ships in it perish'd. When the third Angel sounded, there fell from Heaven a large burning Star like a Torch, which fell upon the third part of the Rivers and Fountains, and infus'd such a Contagion into them, that many that drank of them died. Upon the Sounding of the fourth Angel, a third part of the Sun, Moon and Stars was obscur'd; and an Angel was seen to fly through the Air, pronouncing these words, *Woe, Woe, Woe to the Inhabitants of Judea, by reason of the three Judgments still behind.* Upon the Sounding of the fifth Angel, *John* saw a (f) Star fall from Heaven, to whom was given the Key of the Bottomless-Pit, who opening it, there arose a Smoke out of it, which darken'd the Sky; and there came out with the Smoke, Locusts as mischievous as Scorpions; which had Power, not to kill, but for five Months to torment those that had not the Mark of God on their Foreheads. This brought a great Famine and Want on the greatest and richest Men, far more miserable than Death itself. These devouring Locusts, the Zealots, appear'd like Warriours, pretending to be Redeemers of the People, though they were Plunderers of them, having no more Courage than Women, though as much Cruelty as ravenous Beasts. The Chief of these Zealots (tho they disclaim'd having any King) was Satan, call'd here by the Name of *Apollyon*, who delights in nothing but Destruction. And this is the first of the three Woes

(f) *Star.* This is supposed to be the Leader of the Seditious, who with his Crew, under the Title of Zealots, did much Mischief, marching to *Jerusalem* and seizing upon the Temple, killing

the Priests, and plundering the City. And these became as Locusts, waiting and destroying all where-ever they came, except the Christians.

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# REVELATIONS. 325

pronounc'd against *Judea*. Upon the Sounding of the sixth Angel *John* heard a Voice from the four Corners of the golden Altar, which was before God, saying to the sixth Angel who had the Trumpet, "Loose the (g) four Angels who are bound in the great River *Euphrates*." Which being ready at a determinate time, set forward with a vast Number of Forces to execute the Wrath of God on *Jerusalem*. In the Vision, *John* saw the Horses which had Heads like those of Lions, and Fire, Smoke and Brimstone came out of their Mouths; and they that rode on them had Breast-plates of Fire, Jacinth and Brimstone. A great many *Jews* were killed by these in their Passage through the Country; and the Rear of this Army was as terrible as the Van, (both meant here by the Mouth and Tail.) And though many escaped, yet they repented not of their Idolatry, but grew worse; neither repented they of their Murders, Sorceries, Fornications and Thefts.

## The Third Vision.

UPON the *Jews* multiplying these Sins, and their impenitent Continuance in all their Provocations, it was just with God to proceed, as he now appeared to *John* in a Vision to do. "I saw, saith *John*, another Angel of special Dignity descend from Heaven, clothed with a Cloud, having a Rainbow on his Head, his Face was like the Sun, and his Feet as Pillars of Fire. In his Hand he held a little Book open, and he set his Right Foot on the Sea, and his Left on the Earth. His Voice was as terrible as the Roaring of a Lion, which when he uttered, was attended with seven Claps of Thunder. And when I was about to write down,

(f) *Four Angels*. By these may when permitted by the Condition of Affairs, march'd under the Conduct of *Vespasian* to the Siege of *Jerusalem*. very reasonably be meant the *Syrian* and other Legions of the *Romans*, who were quartered thereabout, and,

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" as I had hitherto done, what was now uttered by  
 " the Thunders, a Voice from Heaven forbid me,  
 " saying, Seal up those things which the Thunders  
 " have uttered, and write them not. Then the  
 " Angel that stood on the Sea, and on the Earth, in  
 " a solemn manner lifting his Hand to Heaven, sware  
 " by God the Creator of all the World, that there  
 " should be no longer (*b*) Delay of the Execution of  
 " God's Judgments; for upon the Sounding of the  
 " seventh Angel, what has been foretold by the  
 " old Prophets, and since by the Prophets under the  
 " New Testament, shall be perfected and fulfill'd.  
 " Then the same Voice from Heaven spake to me a-  
 " gain, saying, Go and take the little Book which is  
 " in the Hand of the Angel that standeth on the Sea  
 " and on the Earth. And as he gave it me, he said,  
 " Take it, and eat it up, and it shall make thy Belly  
 " bitter, but it shall be in thy Mouth as sweet as  
 " Honey. And I took it and did eat it up, and I  
 " found it (*i*) sweet in my Mouth, but bitter in my  
 " Stomach. And when I thought with my self, sure  
 " now there is an end of the Vision concerning the  
 " Jews, the Angel said to me, that besides this De-  
 " struction of the Temple and Jerusalem under Titus,  
 " to which these last Parts of the Vision belong'd,  
 " there was yet more matter of Prophefying relating  
 " to this People; which shou'd yet further befall them  
 " from the Romans (after this Destruction) by suc-  
 " ceeding Emperors, Adrian especially, and other  
 " Kings and People that should assist him in rooting  
 " out this Nation."

(*b*) *Delay.* The Greek Word *Chro-*  
*nos*, which is here render'd, *ch. 10.*  
*v. 6. Time*, signifies also Delay. Thus  
 it is in *Heb. 10. 37. Habak. 2. 3*  
*Ecc. 7. 16.* In which Places it signi-  
 fies the speedy Execution of God's  
 Judgments,

(*i*) *Sweet.* By St. John's Eating  
 the Book, is here meant his Consider-  
 ing and Meditating on both Parts of it,  
 the Sweet and the Bitter: The Sweet,

signifying the Deliverances and Advan-  
 tages of the Christians; the Bitter, the  
 Terror of that utter Destruction which  
 the Obstinacy of the Jews brought  
 upon them. And though the one  
 pleased him exceedingly, yet as Ho-  
 ney, that is sweet to the Taste when  
 it is eaten, it is uneasy to the Stomach  
 but the other Part, that of the Destru-  
 ction of his Countrymen the Jews, was  
 matter of great Grief to him.

## The Fourth Vision.

**A**FTER this there was a Reed given to *John* like a Rood, with which he was commanded to measure the Temple of God and the Altar, and them that worship therein; but not the Court of the *Gentiles* called the outer Court; because it was given to the *Gentiles*, who were to tread the holy City under foot, forty and two Months. All which time two Witnesses, or Christian Bishops of the *Jewish* and *Gentile* Christians at *Jerusalem*, acted the Parts of Prophets, to warn and convert the unreform'd, which they did in Sackcloth, either denoting the Custom of the Prophets, or the Persecution under which they labour'd. These two Bishops with their Flocks were to stand before the God of the Land, serving Christ constantly in this general Corruption: And to these two are applicable two Passages belonging to *Elias*; the first in bringing Fire from Heaven, the second in having Power by Prayer to shut up Heaven, that it shou'd not rain: and two other Passages likewise relating to *Moses*; the first in turning the Waters into Blood, and the second in bringing Plagues upon the Earth. And when they had discharg'd their Office, in endeavouring to reduce both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, an eminent Instrument of the Devil named *Barchuchebah*, a Ringleader of Sedition among the *Jews*, in *Adrian's* Time, was to persecute and kill them, and cast out their Bodies in the Streets without Burial: And this still in *Jerusalem*, (that no Prophet might be slain any where else) which cannot better be compar'd than to *Sodom* for her spiritual Whoredom or Idolatry, and to *Egypt* for her tyrannizing over and oppressing the People of God; not expresed by any Character more abominable than their Crucifying of Christ, and dealing so with Christians. And thus should it be with the Christians, whose dead Bodies should be cast into the Streets without Compassion or Reverence; which

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wou'd be matter of rejoicing to the *Jews*, as upon the Destruction of their greatest Enemies. But after some time their Cause should come before God, who should raise them from the Dead to the Terror of the Beholders; and should take them up into Heaven in the Sight of their Enemies: At which time of the Witnesses or Bishops ascending into Heaven, there happen'd a great Commotion, in which some thousands were destroyed, and the Remainder were converted, and glorified God.

This Calamity was the end of the second Woe, which was soon succeeded by the third: For the seventh Angel, who was to conclude the whole Tragedy, having sounded, Thunders were immediately heard, which said, *The Kingdoms of this World are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ*: Which was manifested in that terrible Slaughter of near six hundred thousand of the seditious *Jews* by the *Romans*; by which means the Christians flourish'd there more than ever, and the whole City of *Jerusalem* (being rebuilt by *Adrian*, and after one of his Names called *Ælia*) became in a manner *Gentile-Christian*. And thus the Church of *Jerusalem* enter'd upon her flourishing Condition, and the Faith of Christ gain'd the upper Hand, so as it should never be destroyed utterly again. After these Voices from Heaven had thus made Proclamation of the future peaceable State of the Church, the four and twenty Elders who sat before the Throne fell down and worshipped God, saying, *Blessed be God for this infinite Mercy of his in taking the Power of Government to himself; who shall extirpate the Wicked, but reward the Prophets and Saints with ever lasting Rest.*

### *The Fifth Vision.*

THIS Vision being of vast Importance, no less than Heaven itself is the glorious Scene where-  
in 'tis represented. Behold in Heaven appear'd a Wo-  
man



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man clothed with the Beams of the Sun, on her Head a Crown of Stars, and the Moon for her Foot-stool. She being with Child, and at the instant of her Delivery, a great red Dragon presented itself ready to devour the Child as soon as it should be born; but God prevented the Dragon, and took the Child into his immediate Protection on his Throne. As for the Woman, God had prepar'd her a Place in the Wilderness, to which she fled, and was plentifully provided for. After this there was War in Heaven; *Michael* and his Angels fought with the Dragon and his, who was worsted, and ejected Heaven with his Adherents, and cast upon Earth. At this Part of the Vision *John* heard a loud Voice in Heaven, saying, *Now is come Salvation and the Kingdom of our God, and Power of his Christ; for the Accuser of our Brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God Day and Night.* And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, and the Word of their Testimony, taking up his Cross, and suffering for the Doctrine of it. This Victory was matter of Joy; but the Devil who was thus conquer'd, left not off so, but threatned Destruction to the Earth, on which he was cast, persecuting the Woman that brought forth the Child, who was shelter'd under the Wings of Providence, call'd the Wings of an Eagle; however he pursued her, and though he could not prevail against her, he declar'd War against all her Issue, which are the Servants of God and Christ.

The

## Notes on the Fifth Vision.

This Vision is a most glorious Image of the Primitive Church, shining round about with the Faith of Jesus Christ the Sun of Righteousness, treading under Foot both the Legal Shadows and the Darknefs of *Gentile* Superstitions. These were govern'd or depended on the Course of the Moon; the first by her Motion, as appears from most of the *Jewish* Feasts; but the other as she rules the Night, or the Power of Darknefs; that is, the Worshipping of Satan in Idols. And, to conclude,

she was glorious with the Signs of the Apostolical Order, twelve in Number.

The Pangs at her Delivery are the cruel Persecutions which the Church suffer'd before the Emperors became Christians.

The Dragon here may be the same with the Beast in *ch.* 17. which the Angel sheweth to be the *Roman* Empire, only this Dragon is Heathen, the Beast Christian-Rome. Likewise this Dragon may be the Devil; the same Emblem serves for him and the Ro-



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## The Sixth Vision.

**A**FTER this *John* saw a Beast rise out of the Sea that had seven Heads and ten Horns, and on his Horns ten Crowns, and on his Head the Name of Blasphemy. The Beast was like a Leopard, and his Feet was as the Feet of a Bear, his Mouth as the Mouth of a Lion, and the Dragon gave him his Power. And though one of his Heads seem'd (k) wounded to Death, yet it was healed again, and the Land follow'd the Beast, and they worshipped the Dragon, who had thus upheld the Heathen Religion, when the *Jewish* Religion was destroy'd, resolving from hence, that the God of *Israel* was not able to contend with their Devils, nor his Religion able to

man Empire; because it was by his Power that it acted in all the Persecutions.

His being ready to devour the Child, shews how the Devil by the Authority of the *Roman* Emperors endeavour'd to destroy Christianity in its Birth. This also has some Allusion to the Case of the Children of *Israel* in *Egypt*, *Pharaoh* causing their Children to be put to Death.

The Birth of the Child may denote the Birth of Christ among the *Gentiles*, or Christ form'd in his Members.

The War between *Michael* and the *Devil* was waged during the time the Woman was in Travail: *Michael* and his Angels, together with the Martyrs and Confessors, fought for about three hundred Years, during the ten Persecutions of the *Roman* Emperors; the *Devil* endeavouring still by their Cruelty to destroy the Church.

The Devil's Ejectment from Heaven was the abolishing of Idol-Worship.

The Dragon, who had hitherto been worshipped instead of God, was by *Constantine's* coming to the Empire, cast out of his Heaven to the bottom of Execution.

The Dragon's being call'd Accuser, is an Allusion to *Job*; for by Satan's

accusing him, he brought it to pass, that God permitted him to try *Job* by Temptations and Tribulations.

It was by the Blood of Christ that the Dragon was overcome, and his Conquerors freely gave their Lives for a Testimony of his Word.

The World is warn'd to beware of the Wrath of the Devil: For though *Constantine* did cast him from the Throne, yet he was for some time still worshipped by the People; but perceiving at length he was wholly to be thrust down, he study'd to bring the Victory of the Church into Danger, and by new Stratagems to undermine her.

The Eagle was the Ensign of the *Roman* Empire, by whose Protection the Church was at first deliver'd and protected against *Licinius* and those Persecutors; but afterwards the same Wings left her in the Wilderness in the State of Solitude, in which she must continue during the Reign of Antichrist.

(k) Wounded. This wounded Head may allude to the Temple on one of the seven Hills at *Rome* burnt down by Lightning, and so Idolatry seems to have receiv'd a fatal Blow: But that was rebuilt by *Domitian* the Emperor, and Idolatry again confirm'd.

maintain

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maintain itself against their Idol-Worship. Hereupon the Heathen Idol-Worshippers despise all others, and (l) scoff at the God of *Israel*, speaking Blasphemy against God and his Christ, persecuting the Christians and suppressing them every where, whether of *Jewish* or *Gentile* Extraction. And the Christian Professors within the Compass of the *Roman* Dominions were put to sharp Trials, and (m) all, whose Names were not from the Foundation of the World written in the Book of the Lamb slain, fell into Idolatry; as the carnal temporizing *Gnosticks*, who rather than be Martyrs and Confessors for Christ, chose to comply with Idolatry. But to comfort the Christians under their Persecution and Captivity, God tells them, he will revenge them of the Beast by the like Punishment upon him.

The next Part of this Vision was the Representation of a second Beast, with two Horns like a Lamb, and the Speech of the Dragon, but he came out of the Earth; by which are meant the Magick Miracles and Divination of the Heathen Priests made use of to advance Idol-worship, which had lost Ground by the burning of the Capitol. By these great Wonders were pretended to be done, even bringing down Fire from Heaven, as is affirm'd of *Apollonius*. By these lying Miracles the Beast prevail'd to have an Image made,

(l) Scoff. As the Heathen Emperors did, calling themselves Gods, particularly *Domitian*.

(m) All. The Learned have remark'd a very important Transposition of Terms in *Revel. 13. 8.* where all the Versions, except that of *Castalio*, make *St. John* evidently contradict the Apostle to the *Hebrews*, making the one say, *That the Lamb was slain from the Foundation of the World*, whereas the other declares expressly, *Heb. 9. 25, 26, 28. That Christ has not offer'd himself often; that he has not suffer'd often since the Foundation of the World, &c.* To justify the Expression of *St. John*, it is said, that his Meaning was not, that the Lamb was actually slain from the

Foundation of the World, but only that it was slain in the Decree of God, or in the Sacrifices and Types which did prefigure him, or so far as the Virtue of his Sacrifice did extend to the Foundation of the World. But if they would have this to be the meaning of *St. John's* Expression, they shou'd have render'd it so in the Translations. However, it is much more natural to put the Words of *St. John* in another Order, and translate them thus; *All that dwell on the Earth, whose Names are not from the Foundation of the World written in the Book of the Lamb, shall worship him.* This will appear by another Passage of the same *St. John, Revel. 17. 8.*

which was erecting Idol-worship again; and which being inforc'd by the Emperor's Edicts through all Provinces, all that refus'd were severely persecuted, being interdicted all Privileges and Advantages of Life, if they would not join with them in Idolatry.

### *The Seventh Vision.*

**U**PON the close of this *John* saw another Vision, which was a Lamb standing on Mount *Sion*, with an hundred forty and four thousand, that had the Father's Mark on their Fore-heads; meaning Christ in his Church, with all those pure Christians that had openly and constantly professed the Truth. Then *John* heard a Voice from Heaven, as of many Waters, that is, the Gospel preach'd aloud among the *Gentiles*, and a Multitude of *Gentile*-Christians rejoicing; and these sung an Hymn of Praise, in which none cou'd join with them, but those pure Christian-*Jews*, that had kept themselves spotless from the Pollutions of the World. These are they who were untainted with the heretical *Gnostick* Corruptions of Uncleaness, and that held out constantly against all Persecutions; who never fell off to any false Practices, but serv'd God blameless.

After this *John* saw another Angel flying in the midst of Heaven, carrying happy Tidings to all Nations, saying, *Fear God, and give glory to him, and adhere to the true God, for the Hour is come that Idolatry shall be destroy'd.* And presently another Angel brought the News, that it was done, that that impure City *Heathen-Rome*, under the Title of *Babylon*, should speedily be destroy'd for advancing the Heathen-worship, and persecuting all that wou'd not join in it. After these follow'd a third Angel to confirm and fortify the persecuted with Patience under the present or remaining Persecutions, threatening the unconstant with the Punishments of *Sodom* and *Gomorrab*. And to that purpose a Voice from Heaven was heard, saying,  
*Blessed*

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*Blessed are the Dead who die in the Lord, for they shall rest from their Labours ; who shall be crown'd with the Reward of eternal Peace, and be no more liable to the Storms of Persecution.* After this *John* saw a white Cloud, on which sat *Christ* with a golden Crown on his Head, and a sharp Sickle in his Hand : And another Angel call'd to him to proceed immediately to Excision, their Sins being now ripe for Destruction. Which he accordingly did, and this Vengeance beset *Heathen-Rome*. This was afterwards repeated ; not only to the City of *Rome*, but to other Parts of the Empire, wherein Christianity had been persecuted, and a most bloody Slaughter follow'd.

## *The Eighth Vision.*

THE next Vision which *John* saw was concerning the Judgments of God upon *Heathen-Rome*, represented by seven Angels with seven Plagues, containing God's Vengeance. And besides them he saw a great Multitude of pure zealous Christians that had not yielded to the Terrors of their Persecutors in the least degree, who standing with their Harps in their Hands, sang the same Song that *Moses* had done upon the Victory and Deliverance out of *Egypt*, when the *Egyptians* were drowned in the *Red-Sea* ; saying, *Great and marvellous are thy Works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy Works, O King of Saints. Who shall not fear and reverence thy Name ? For thou shalt convert all Nations upon the Conviction of thy Judgments, who shall come and worship before thee.* After this *John* saw the Holy of Holies open'd, those great Mysteries which had long lain hid, revealed, those Decrees of God concerning the *Romans* now ready to come forth ; and the Sum of them was contain'd in seven Punishments upon the *Roman* Empire, brought out by as many Angels in shining glorious Habits, sent by God from his Throne in Heaven to execute these Judgments upon them. And one of the four Animals that attended the



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the Throne, gave to the seven Angels seven golden Vials full of the Wrath of God : and the Place where this Vision seem'd to be was fill'd with Smoke, as an Expression of the Fire of God's Wrath and Vengeance, which was so insupportable, that no body could indure to come into the Sanctuary.

The Angels waiting for the Word of Command for the disposing of the Vials, a Voice from the Temple call'd to them to execute the Wrath of God, by pouring out the Vials upon the Earth ; and there fell heavy Plagues, which swept away a Multitude of Heathens and temporizing *Gnosticks*, in *Rome* and other Parts of the Empire.

The second Angel did likewise, and the Sea became like Blood ; that is, *Rome* was fill'd with Slaughters by the Cruelty of the Emperors, and the frequent Seditions of the Inhabitants, in which Multitudes perish'd.

The third Angel poured out his Vial on the Rivers and Fountains, other Cities and Provinces of the Empire, wherein great Wars and Tumults arose, and many were slain. And this Angel that poured out the Vial of God's Judgments upon these Places, did it as a just Judgment on them, for the Blood of the Christians that had been slain by them, and as an Act of Pity and Relief to the persecuted, to whose Sufferings God put an end by these means.

The Execution of the fourth Angel was by bringing a great Drought and Famine on the Empire, such as was in *Maximin's* Time, express'd here by the Sun's scorching of Men, which signifies that scorching and drying up the Fruits of the Earth, from whence a Dearth proceeds, and so mention'd here to express Famine. And though this Plague tormented them exceedingly, yet they were so far from repenting, that they rail'd at the Christian Religion as the Cause of all their Miseries.

The fifth Angel's Vial was not poured out upon the Persons of Men, but on the Seat of the Beast, that



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is, on the Government it self; which was very much distress'd by the Invasion of the barbarous Nations; and this, as before, they imputed as a just Judgment on them for permitting Christianity among them, and therefore they set themselves more violently against the Christians.

The Execution of the sixth Angel was the destroying of *Maxentius's* Forces in *Italy*, and distressing of *Rome*, the mystical *Babylon* noted here by (n) *Euphrates* the River that belongs to *Babylon*, preparing it for *Constantine* and his Sons, that were Christians.

After this *John* saw three diabolical Spirits like Frogs come out of the Mouth of the Dragon; which were made use of to deceive *Maxentius*, assuring him of Success against *Constantine*, and by which means *Constantine* destroy'd his Army, enter'd *Rome*, and gave a fatal Blow to Idolatry. Such unexpected Changes as these, and such secret Methods of God's Providence, may in reason admonish all to be watchful.

When the seventh Angel had poured out his Vial into the Air, *John* heard a Proclamation come out of the Holy of Holies, saying, It is done; that is, *Heathen Rome* is now destroy'd; which fell out afterwards in the Emperor *Honorius's* Time: All which was foretold by the terrible Prognosticks of Thunders, Lightnings and Earthquakes. And *Rome* being at the time of *Honorius* divided into three Parties, the Heathen, the Orthodox, and Heretical or impure Christians, this brought in *Alarick the Goth*, who executed God's just Vengeance on *Heathen-Rome*.

(n) *Euphrates*, The River *Euphrates*, we know, is that which runs through *Babylon*, and so that great River is set to denote that City, as we ordinarily find *Tyber* to be us'd for *Rome*, the Sea for *Galilee*, and the Region to which it belongs. But the Ground for the City of *Rome* being called *Babylon* may probably be this; because *Babylon* was the Seat of the *Assyrian* Monarchy, as *Rome* of the *Roman*; and the *Assyrian* Monarchy being the first, as the *Roman* was the last, *Rome* that thus succeeded *Babylon* may well be called by that Name. And so generally the Ancients understood it, some having drawn the Parallel in many Particulars.

*The Ninth Vision.*

THE seven Angels having thus executed their Orders, in discharging their several Plagues, one of them calleth *John* to him, and shews him the Vengeance that was ready to befall the great Whore, or Imperial Dignity of *Rome*, fitly so call'd for her impious Idolatries, and forcing other Countries subject to her into the same idolatrous Courses. In this Vision *John* was carry'd into a Desert, where he saw a Woman sitting on a Scarlet-colour'd Beast, full of Names of Blasphemy, that had seven Heads and ten Horns, meaning the seven Hills on which *Rome* was built, and the ten Horns, ten Kings confederated with the *Roman* Emperor. And this Woman, or *Roman* Power, was in great Prosperity, and much Cost was bestow'd on their Idol-worship. On the Forehead of this Woman was a Name written, *Mystery, Babylon the Great*, the Introducer of Idolatry into other Cities; who besides her Idolatry, had drank deep of the Blood of the Saints. At this Sight *John* was much astonish'd. But the Angel interpreted the Vision to him, telling him, That all that dwell on Earth, whose Names are not written in the Book of Life from the Foundation of the World, shall wonder when they behold the Beast that was, and is not, and yet is. This is the meaning of the Vision; the seven Heads are the seven Hills which are so notoriously known in *Rome*. They also signify seven Kings or Emperors; five whereof are dead, *Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius*; one then reign'd, viz. *Vespasian*, and a seventh was not yet come, namely *Titus*, whose Reign was to continue but two Years and two Months. And the Beast that was and is not, was *Domitian*, who for his bloody Persecution of the Christians was to be punish'd accordingly. As for the ten Kings noted by the ten Horns, they for a small time comply'd with the *Roman* Power, and, as the Emperors did, persecuted

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REVELATION CHAP. XVIII.<sup>49</sup>

An angel throws a millstone into the Sea.



REVELATION 18. Verse 11.<sup>337</sup>

*And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her, for no man buyeth her merchandise any more.*

cuted the Christians in their Dominions. But they shall be subdued by the Lamb with whom they wag'd War. And the Angel said moreover to *John*, The Waters, that is, the People of several Nations, that were under the *Roman* Emperor so lately, and the ten Kings of those Nations that had no Power or Kingdom within the *Roman* Territories, shall invade the *Roman* Empire, and at length spoil the City of all its Bravery, and deprive them of many of their former Dominions, and set the City on Fire. And all this as an eminent Act of God's Providence, that all those Nations should first confederate with the *Romans* to persecute the Christians, and then that they should break off, and execute God's Vengeance upon them. And as to the Woman whom thou didst see, she is the *Roman* Power, or the Empire of *Rome* and the World, which hath many Princes under her.

*The Tenth Vision.*

WHILST *John* was thus rap'd with the Strangeness of the Prediction of the approaching Fate of mystical *Babylon*, or *Rome*, another Vision offer'd it self to his Sight; which was the Representation of the Destruction of Heathen-*Rome* by the *Goths*, under the Conduct of *Alaric*. An Angel descended from Heaven, and with a loud Voice cried, ' That great City so like *Babylon* for Pride, Luxury and Oppression, is now fallen from that Eternity of which it dreamed, and over-run with barbarous *Goths* and *Vandals*. And this is a just Punishment of her foul Idolatries, which she has infus'd into other Nations.' And a Voice was heard, warning all Christians to abstain from communicating in her Sins, and to depart out of the City, as the Emperor *Honorius*, and Pope *Innocent* did to *Ravenna*, at the time of *Alaric's* Siege, as the only way of rescuing them from Destruction. For, continued the Voice, ' The Cry of her Sins is come to Heaven, and now Vengeance is

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‘ come upon her; and she shall receive a double Portion of Punishment. For her Pride and Opinion of herself, Fire, Famine, Plague, and Slaughter shall rage in her; many shall deplore her calamitous Condition, but forsake her, and be afraid of relieving or assisting her. The Merchants shall lament their want of Trade, for her Luxury was their Support and Gain. The Dainties wherewith she indulg’d herself are now prohibited her; and those who us’d to come freighted with Delicacies to her, when they shall hear of this Desolation, shall divert to some other Place; and all shall admire the suddenness of her Fate, bewailing her former Greatness, and their own Loss in her Destruction.’ Then said *John*, ‘ Methought I saw an Angel of God take a Stone like a Mill-stone, and cast it into the Sea, as an Emblem of *Rome’s* speedy and approaching Ruin: Thus shall *Babylon* be destroy’d. No more joyful Sounds of Musick shall cheer thy Inhabitants, nor the cunning Artist enrich thee. The times of thy Mirth are now at an end, and for these Reasons; because thy Luxury enrich’d many, and made them great; because thou hast seduc’d others to Idolatry; and because thou hast persecuted and slain the Apostles and other Christians.

### *The Eleventh Vision.*

**A**FTER these things, *John* heard a Noise of much People in Heaven, who rejoiced at the Destruction of the Heathen Religion, and the happy News for the Christian: But this rejoicing was gradual, first magnifying his Fidelity to themselves, and then his Justice in revenging them on the idolatrous Persecutors, who had betray’d so many, and shed so much Christian Blood. Whilst they were thus rejoicing, the four and twenty Bishops and the four Animals prostrated themselves, and joined in the Chorus of Praise; and at the same time a Voice from the Throne admonish’d all Christians to praise God. Then  
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an Angel bad *John* enter this happy Change in his Book : And *John* in a Transport offering to adore him, the Angel forbad him, saying, ' I am thy Fellow 'Servant, no more honourably imploy'd by Christ 'than thou art, being one of his Messengers to publish his Gospel.' After this *John* saw Christ coming from Heaven, and riding on a white Horse, to execute Judgment against his Enemies. His Eyes were like flaming Fire, and he had many Crowns on his Head, as Testimonies of his Victories over his Enemies; and in Token of those Victories he had a Note of Distinction, which only but himself understood. He was cloth'd in a Royal Purple Garment, noting that regal Power to which he was install'd, as a Reward of his Sufferings; and his Name in which he was represented, w known Title of Christ, the Word of God : And the Angels, the Ministers of his Vengeance, attended him in a glorious and splendid manner. Out of his Mouth proceeded that terrible sharp Part of the Gospel, his Threats against his Enemies, and those now to be executed on the Heathens, whom he will subdue by his Power, because they will not be converted ; for which Obstinacy of theirs he is now preparing the most bitter Potion of his Wrath for them. By these means he will shew himself too mighty for any Power on Earth to resist. Then *John* saw an Angel standing in the Sun, who called to all the Birds of Prey, *Goths* and *Vandals*, &c. that they should come as to a Feast to this Judgment of God upon these Idolaters, telling them there should be abundance of Prey of all sorts for them. Then the Idolaters at *Rome*, and in all other Parts of the Empire, began to persecute the Christians ; but for the *Roman* Idolaters, Magicians, Augurs and Diviners, that had deceiv'd the carnal Christians, so far as to consent and comply with the heathenish Idolatry, they were utterly to be extirpated like *Sodom* and *Gomorrhah*. As for the rest, they were swept away in the same Destruction, and Idol-worship was totally destroy'd with them.

*The Twelfth Vision.*

**A**ND now to give a Representation of that Tranquillity and Peace which the Church was about to enjoy, *John* saw in another Vision the great Enemy of it confin'd for a long Season. First he saw an Angel descend from Heaven with the Key of Hell, and a great Chain in his Hand, who seiz'd on the Devil, and bound him for the Space of a thousand Years; noting the Quiet and Freedom from Persecutions that the Church should be allow'd from the time of *Constantine's* coming to the Empire. And he secur'd him in Hell, that he might not deceive and corrupt the World to Idolatry, as he had done till then; after which Term of Years he was to be let loose again for a certain Season. Then *John* saw Thrones, and Persons sitting on them, who had Power given them to execute Judgment, and profess the Faith of Christ; as if all that had died for Christ, and held out constantly against all Heathen Persecutions, had been now admitted to live and reign with Christ in a quiet and flourishing Condition for the Space of a thousand Years. But as for the old Idolaters and *Gnosticks*, there should none of them be seen till the end of this Space of a thousand Years. This is what is proverbially described by the first Resurrection, that is, a flourishing Condition of the Church under the *Messias*; and happy will they be that shall share in the Benefit of this Resurrection, for they shall be exempt from the second Death, that is, *Roman* Tyranny and Persecutions, and enjoy the Blessing of an undisturb'd Quiet in their Profession of Christ. And after the Expiration of the thousand Years, the Sins of the Christians will provoke God to take off this Restraint from the Devil, and he shall persecute them (o) afresh.

(o) *Afresh.* This may reasonably be said to fall out about a thousand Years after the Date of *Constantine's* Edict for the Liberty of the Christian

Profession, at which time the *Mahometan* Religion was brought into Greece, a Part of the *Roman* Empire.

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Then shall he seduce Men in all Quarters to false Religions, particularly *Gog* and *Magog*, the Inhabitants of those Countries where *Mahometism* began to flourish, to ingage them in vast Numbers to invade and waste the Christian Church in *Greece* and *Asia*. And accordingly they went out with great Armies, and besieged and took *Constantinople*, that City so precious in the Eye of God for the Continuance of the pure Christian Profession in it, and known among the *Greeks* by the Name of *New Sion*. And those that did so are in their Posterity to be destroy'd, when the Christians, thus punish'd for their Sins, shall reform and amend their Lives. And the Devil, that set them on this mischievous Work, was to be remanded to his Prison; and this Empire of his was again to be destroy'd, as the Idol-worship of the Heathens had been.

After this, in another part of this Vision, *John* saw a Throne set up in great Splendor, and Christ in Majesty sitting thereon with great Terror; and a new Condition of all things in the World was now to be expected. And accordingly that which was the Design of all these Visions, is still here plainly made good; that though the Christian Religion, for the Sins of the wicked Professors, be permitted to be persecuted, and brought very low, yet God will send Relief to those that continue faithful, will destroy the Destroyer, and finally cast out Satan from his Possessions, and then come to judge the World, as here, in that last eternal Doom. And all that ever died were called out of their Graves before him, and in order to Judgment the Records of all their Actions were produced, and another Book brought forth call'd the *Book of Life*, wherein every one's Name is enter'd, that ever undertook God's Service, and blotted out again, if they had fallen off from him; and according to their Works were their Names continued or rejected. And all that perish'd in the Sea, or died on the Land, came out of their Graves; their Bodies were re-united to their Souls, and every one was



judg'd according to his Works. Then at last Death it self was destroy'd eternally, an everlasting Being now succeeding in the Place of this frail mortal one: And this is what is proverbially called the second Death, wherein this whole World hath its Period and Consummation; and whosoever had not his Name written and continued in the Book of Life, whosoever died not constant in the Faith of Christ, was cast into everlasting Fire.

And for a clearer Representation of that flourishing Estate of the Christian Church for a thousand Years, there was farther represented to *John* a most eminent illustrious Change, a kind of new World; for he saw another *Jerusalem* descending upon the Earth, set out with all the Decorations and Ornaments imaginable. And he heard an Acclamation out of Heaven given to this Appearance, signifying it to be the Christian Church now solemnly espoused to Christ, which he will certainly protect and defend, as long as they faithfully adhere to him; and all Persecutions and Punishments for Religion shall have an end. And God own'd this great Change as an Act of his special Providence, and commanded *John* to take notice of it, and write it down as a thing of the highest Importance and Concern; and as a Decree of his, that it should certainly come to pass. And God said farther to him; 'This I have done by my eternal Power, and now every one, that will, shall have Access to the Exercise of the Christian Religion without any Inconvenience or Incommodation. He that continueth constant to it shall enjoy an uninterrupted Felicity in this World, and live in my Family, the Church, as the Son with the Father, in all Freedom and Safety. But for the false apostatizing *Gnosticks*, infamous for their abominable Cruelty, Adultery, Sorcery, Idol-worship, Dissimulation and Lying, they shall be utterly turn'd out of the Church, and no more appear among the Christians.'

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REVELATION CHAP. XXI.  
The Heavenly Jerusalem.



REVELATION 21. Verse <sup>34</sup>22.

*And I saw no temple therein,  
for the LORD GOD almighty, and the  
LAMB, are the temple of it.* 34

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After this one of the seven Angels, that had the seven Vials of the last Plagues, came to *John* and said, 'Come with me, and I will shew thee that Christian Church, which, by those former Destructions wrought 'on Heathen *Rome*, is come out of Persecutions into a 'flourishing Condition.' And the Angel carry'd him to the Top of a great Mountain, and there shewed him this Christian Church, (mention'd before under the Title of the *New*, as here of the *Holy Jerusalem*) and that glorious beautiful State bestow'd on it by God; having the Presence of God most particularly and remarkably with it, and all the Lustre of the Christian Doctrine belonging to it. It was incompass'd with a great high Wall, denoting the Faith of Christ and Doctrine of the Gospel, and had twelve Entrances to it; that is, universal Admission offer'd to all that wou'd forsake Idolatry, and come in: and the Bishops of the Church had Power to admit and shut out, and the Names of the twelve Tribes written on them, signifying them to be as Governors of the Tribes; that is, Rulers of his Church, this *New Jerusalem*. And these Entrances, three toward every Quarter, signified the coming in of People from all Quarters of the World to the Faith of Christ, and their Baptism, the Sacrament of Admission for all, perform'd by a threefold Immersion or Profession of Faith in the three Persons of the Trinity. And the Wall, which incompass'd the City, was founded upon the preaching of the twelve Apostles of Christ.

Whilst *John* was observing the Description of this beautiful Fabrick, the Angel who convers'd with him, had a golden Reed in his Hand to measure the Dimensions of it, which were in this manner. The measuring of it denotes its long Continuance, whereas that which was likely to be soon taken away was not to be measured. (See *ch. 11. v. 2.*) This City or Church being in the Figure of a Cube, was twelve thousand Furlongs every way. The Wall was an hundred forty and four Cubits in Compass, that is, twelve times

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twelve Cubits, allowing an equal proportion to every one of the twelve Apostles, who were the Foundations of this Wall. And the Rod by which this was measured, was a Pole of six Feet long, equal to the Stature of the Angel that appear'd to *John*, that is, of a Man. The Matter of which this Wall was made, was Jasper, a very precious and durable Stone; noting the several Ingredients of the Christian Faith to be such, as precious Precepts, faithful Promises, sure to be perform'd, and such as all Eternity is concern'd in; and the Church it self a Society of holy Men, remarkable for sincere conspicuous Purity, such as God, who sees to the bottom of the Heart, acknowledges and approves, and such as Men may behold and glorify God for them, in both respects express'd here by Gold and Glass; Gold, in respect of its Purity and Value in the sight of God; and Glass, in respect of the Transparency of it, discernable both by God and Man. And the Apostles, here call'd the Foundations, who planted this Faith, were represented in a most glorious manner by all the precious things imaginable, and the several Intimations of each of which might have somewhat of Propriety to each of the Apostles, but will hardly be applicable with any Certainty; but all together certainly note that which is most precious, and signify their Memory to be such in the Church of God, and any thing that was taught by them to be accepted with Veneration. And the Governors of the Church, here call'd the twelve Gates, which had the Power of admitting or excluding, were each of them represented as very estimable precious Persons; and the Streets of the City, that is, the Assemblies or Congregations of Christians in the Church, were like Gold and Glass, as is before mention'd of the Wall. There was no particular Temple therein, but a general Liberty to serve God in every City and Place, and not as was among the *Jews*, only at *Jerusalem*; but wheresoever Christians met together, or in every Man's own Recess, they offer'd up Prayers to God, and God in Christ was in the midst of them,

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them, especially in the Christian Churches, set apart for God's peculiar Service in every City and Town, and not confin'd to one particular Place for all to resort to. And there was no need of Sun and Moon, new ways of Revelations for inlightning this Church; for God, coming down and pitching his Tent upon the Earth, hath planted the Faith intirely, and so his Doctrine in the full and perfect Light of his Church, the Rule of all our Faith, which needs no farther Addition or new Revelation. And all the People of the World that come to any Sense of their Idolatries and Sins, occasion'd by God's Judgments fallen on them, shall be glad to live up to the strictness of this Rule; and the Kings of the Earth, the most eminent for Power, Wealth and Learning, shall submit themselves to it, and be glad to become Members of the Church; studying to support and protect it, and endowing it with worldly Wealth and Splendor. And there shall be a most ready and hospitable Reception at all times for all that will come in to the Faith by Amendment of Life. The *Gentiles* of other Parts that are not subject to the *Roman* Empire, shall come into the Church, and contribute to its flourishing Grandeur, by their honourable and magnificent Indowments. And this shall generally be done by all that resolve to live up to the Purity and Piety of the Gospel: and only they shall be excluded this celestial Habitation, who are immers'd in all Filthiness and abominable unnatural vicious Practices, and in all manner of unjust Dealings; for such cannot by the Laws of Baptism be receiv'd, and who will not desire to undergo Christ's Discipline.

In the same Vision *John* saw by the Angel's Direction a pure River of Water of Life, and clear as Chrystal, that is, a Font or Baptistry; to which they that were admitted were bound to undertake all Purity of Life: and this Power of Admission was intrusted to the Governors of the Church, by Christ communicated to them. Then *John* saw a Place of Christian Assemblies, and betwixt that and the Font was the Tree  
of



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of Life planted; and the visible outward Profession and Form of Piety in the Church were to be of great use in attracting others to the Church, and to keep them there in a good State of Mind, or reduce and restore those that had fallen from it. And for notorious Sinners, to whom the Censures of the Church relate, they shall not be permitted to continue in it; for the Christian Judicatures shall never cease for the Space of the thousand Years, and all Christians will submit to them. And such as do so shall have the Favour of God, and be accounted his true Servants. In this Church of Christ there shall be no more Sadness or Darkeness, no want of Refreshment or Comfort; God shall be all in all to them, and they shall never fail to enjoy this Felicity of serving God, express'd by being Kings and reigning with Christ. Then the Angel began to conclude his Discourse with *John*, and to sum up what he had seen in this Vision; telling him, ' That all this, ' as strange and glorious as it was, should certainly ' come to pass; and that God, who had inspired and ' given Commissions to his Prophets, had now sent an ' Angel to make this Revelation; by way of Vision, of ' those things that were more speedily to commence, ' and one after another to be completed. And this ' Consideration of the speediness of the fulfilling these ' Prophecies, that of the Prosperity of the Church under Christian Emperors and Kings, as also those that ' concern'd the Destruction of the *Jews* and *Gnosticks*, ' (every where call'd the Coming of Christ) now immediately approaching; this Consideration, I say, ' is of so vast Importance to every one that lives in ' the Christian Church, that as 'tis the only way to ' Happiness for a Man to guide his Actions by the ' Contents of this Prophecy, so it will go very ill with ' him that doth not. These things did I *John* see and ' hear; and when I had done so, I was so transported ' with Joy, that in a Sense of the great Benefit and ' Blessing of them, I offer'd to adore the happy Messenger of so much good; but he wou'd not permit ' me,

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me, saying, I am thy Fellow-Servant, and but equal to the other Prophets who are thy Brethren; and they that live and persevere in the Faith of Christ against all Temptations, according to the Design of this Book, are absolutely such as I am, the Servants of God also. Therefore let God have all the Thanks and Praise of all that shall be done, and of all that is now revealed to thee. And then, methought, Christ himself said to me, Seal not up this Prophecy; lay it not up as a thing in which only future Ages are concern'd: for the Completion of a great Part is so near approaching, that it is fit the Prophecy should lie open for all to see and observe the Completion of it. And now the bad and the good shall come to receive their Sentence: There remain now no more Seasons of working Changes on any, but he that is still impenitent is like to receive his Reward accordingly; and on the other side, he that hath held out courageously and constantly against all the Terrors of Persecutions, and Deceits of carnal Sins, will suddenly receive the Fruits and Recompence of it. And I shall not now make any further Delays, as has been by some objected against the Fidelity of my Promises, (2 Pet. 3. 9.) but will hasten to reward every Man according to his Works, both good and evil. I am the eternal God, and am able to perform my Promise. Blessed are they that receive the Faith of Christ, and live quietly and christianly according to the Rules of the Church, out of which all profane wicked Persons are to be ejected; such as the *Gnosticks* are, who cannot more fitly be compar'd to any thing than to Dogs, for biting and tearing the Orthodox Christians; and are over and above Sorcerers profess'd, guilty of all filthy Pollutions, Blood, Idolatry, Hypocrisy, Treachery and Lying.

I Jesus have sent unto thee my Angel, with all these Visions concerning the seven Churches, and all other Passages concerning the universal Church of God. I am he that am known to the Prophets by

' these several Titles, The Root of *Jesse*, the Son of  
 ' *David*, the Star that ushers in the Day, giving Light  
 ' and Chearfulness to the World : The Spirit of God  
 ' that dwells in the Church of Christ, adorns and sets  
 ' it out, and fits it as a Bride for Christ ; and the  
 ' Church, the Bride it self, calls to every Man to con-  
 ' sider his own Safety, so far as to make haste to come  
 ' into the Number of these faithful Servants of Christ.  
 ' And let every one that heareth these Visions say the  
 ' same, seeing the important Advantages of it, and  
 ' Dangers of the contrary : And whosoever will, may  
 ' have a chearful Admission to it, and to that refresh-  
 ' ing Assistance of Grace and Pardon of Sin offer'd to  
 ' him.

' As for all those to whom this Prophecy shall come,  
 ' I conjure them all, that they change not a Tittle of  
 ' it ; and withal, that they look upon it as the last au-  
 ' thoritative Prophecy that is likely to come from  
 ' Heaven, to be a Rule of Faith to the Church.  
 ' What is here said is decreed and settled immutably ;  
 ' no Man shall be able to avert it : And whosoever  
 ' shall go about to infuse any other Expectations into  
 ' Men than what are agreeable to these Visions, God  
 ' shall bring on him the Judgments that are here de-  
 ' nounced against his greatest Enemies. And so inlike  
 ' manner, if any Man shall derogate from the Autho-  
 ' rity of this Prophecy, and take out any Part of it, or  
 ' obstruct any Man's receiving the Admonition of  
 ' Christ contain'd in every Part thereof, God shall cast  
 ' him off, throw him out of the Church, account him  
 ' incapable of all the Blessings which are here promi-  
 ' sed to the faithful Christians. Christ that sent these  
 ' Visions affirmeth assuredly, that he will speedily  
 ' execute what is contain'd in them ; and the Writer  
 ' hereof, in the Name of faithful Christians, gives his  
 ' Acclamation, *Be it so Lord Jesus, Be it so.*

*Itine-*



*Itinerarium Sacrum :*

O R, A

JOURNAL

O F T H E

PEREGRINATION

O F

*Jesus Christ, the Son of G O D.*

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*Collected from the Four Evangelists, and  
digested according to the Order of Time.*

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*The Childhood of Christ.*

**T**HE Word, which in the Beginning was God  
and with God, in the Fulness of Time was  
made Flesh, and dwelt among us. *John 1.*  
*vers. 1, &c.*

In the Reign of *Herod*, King of *Judea*, the Divine  
Herald, *Gabriel* the Angel, appear'd to *Zacharias* the  
Priest, and foretold that he should have a Son by his  
barren



barren old Wife *Elizabeth*; which Son was to be the Fore-runner of the Word made Flesh, *Luke 1. v. 5.*

The sixth Month after this, the same Divine Messenger *Gabriel* appear'd to the Virgin *Mary*, the betroth'd Wife of *Joseph*, of the Lineage of *David*, whom he acquaints with the special Favour of Heaven, in designing her to be the Mother of the Saviour of the World, and that she should conceive by Virtue of the Holy Ghost. *Luke 1. v. 26.*

*Mary* being with Child of Christ visiting her Cousin *Elizabeth*, who was big with the Baptist, magnifies God, and returns home joyful to her betroth'd Husband *Joseph*. *Luke 1. v. 39.*

The Baptist being born receives the Name of *John*, contrary to the Expectation of his Friends and Relations. *Luke 1. v. 57.*

His Father *Zacharias*, having recover'd the Use of his Tongue, blesteth God. *Luke 1. v. 67.*

*Joseph* the Husband of *Mary* being admonish'd by an Angel in a Dream, that his Wife was with Child by Virtue of the Holy Ghost, takes her Home. *Matthew 1. v. 19, &c.*

Christ is born in *Bethlehem* of the Virgin *Mary*. *Luke 2. v. 1.*

His Genealogy from *Abraham* to *David* is described. *Mat. 1. v. 1. Luke 3. v. 23.*

His Birth is published by the Angels. *Luke 2. v. 8.*

He is circumcised the eighth Day, and receives the Name of Jesus. *Luke 2. v. 21.*

He is adored by the Wisemen, that came from the East to see him, at the Instigation of his Star appearing. *Matthew 2. v. 1.*

When the Days of Purification according to the Law were accomplished, they present him to the Lord in the Temple at *Jerusalem*. *Luke 3. v. 22.*

*Herod* intending to kill him in the Massacre of the Infants, by the Advice and Direction of an Angel he is convey'd into *Egypt*. *Mat. 2. v. 13.*



Returning from *Egypt* he dwelt with his Parents in *Nazareth*, a City of *Galilee*, until the Day of his manifesting himself to *Israel*. *Mat. 2. v. 19.*

Being twelve Years old, he goeth up with his Parents to *Jerusalem* to celebrate the Passover; and his Parents returning home and missing him on the Road, hasten back to *Jerusalem*, where they find him giving wonderful and promising Specimens of his extraordinary Wisdom. *Luke 2. v. 41.*

*Christ's Man's Estate.*

**I**N the fifteenth Year of *Tiberius Caesar*, *John* being sent by God out of the Wilderness, preaches up the approaching of Christ's coming, and exhorts all to prepare for it by Repentance and Baptism. *Mat. 3. v. 1. Luke 3. v. 1. John 1. v. 6, 7, 15.*

Amongst the rest that presented themselves to *John's* Baptism, *Jesus* being now full thirty Years old, offer'd himself to be baptized by *John*. *Mat. 3. v. 13. Mark 1. v. 9. Luke 3. v. 21, 23.*

As soon as *Jesus* is baptized by *John*, he is declar'd by a Voice from Heaven to be Christ the Beloved Son of God. *Matthew 3. v. 16. Mark 1. v. 14. Luke 3. v. 21. John 1. v. 23.*

Shortly after his Baptism *Jesus* retires to the Wilderness, where he exercised himself with a forty days continual Fast, and various Strugglings against the Temptation of the Devil. *Matthew 4. v. 1. Mark 1. v. 12. Luke 4. v. 1.*

Whilst *Jesus* was in the Desert, doing Penance for the Sins of Mankind, the People generally supposing *John* to be the Messias, he openly declares to the Messengers of the chief of the *Jews*, sent on purpose to inquire of him, that he was not Christ, but only his Forerunner, who would in a short time appear publicly. *Luke 3. v. 15. John 1. v. 19.*

The Day after this Message of the *Jews* to *John*, *Jesus* returning from the Desert, where he had been forty

forty Days, *John* pointeth him out to all present with him: *Behold the Lamb of God; this is he of whom I told you before. John 1. v. 29.*

The Day following, when *John* had repeated the same Testimony of Jesus, two of *John's* Disciples, of which *Andrew* was one, follow'd Jesus. *John 1. v. 35.*

*Andrew*, charm'd with the Conversation of his Saviour, the next Day brings his Brother *Simon* to Jesus. *John 1. v. 41.*

A Day after, Jesus travelling from *Judea* to *Galilee*, meets *Philip*, whom he commands to follow him. *John 1. v. 43.*

A little while after *Philip* brings *Nathanael* the Lawyer. *John 1. v. 45.*

The third Day after Jesus's Departure from *Judea*, he honour'd a Wedding in *Cana* of *Galilee* with his Presence, and his new Disciples; where, by turning the Water into Wine, he perform'd his first Miracle. *John 2. v. 1.*

After this he comes down to *Capernaum* with his Disciples. *John 2. v. 12.*

The Passover being at hand, he goes directly from *Capernaum* to *Jerusalem*. *John 2. v. 13.*

When he came to *Jerusalem*, he cast the Buyers and Sellers out of the Temple. *John 2. v. 14.*

*The first Year of Christ's preaching, beginning from the Passover, immediately after his Baptism by John.*

THIS Passover being the first from his Baptism, Jesus began to preach the Gospel in *Jerusalem*; and in Confirmation of it shewed many Signs, which induced much People to believe in him. *John 2. v. 24 and 4. v. 2.*

At this time an eminent Person named *Nicodemus*, one of the *Sanhedrin*, by Night came to Jesus, who instructs him in the Mysteries of the Christian Faith. *John 3. v. 1.* Jesus

Jesus leaving the City of *Jerusalem*, goes into the Country of *Judea*, preaching as he passes, and commissioning his Disciples to baptize. *John* 3. v. 22. and 4. 2.

*John* hitherto continued to baptize; but his Disciples, observing the great resort of the People to Jesus, were ready to resent it as a Diminution of *John's* Honour; but he tells them his Ministry was now near an end, and that he was to give place to the Messias. *John* 3. v. 23.

Soon after this *Herod* the Tetrarch threw *John* into Prison, because he had reprehended him for his incestuous Life, and other Crimes. *Mat.* 14. v. 3. *Mark* 6. v. 17. *Luke* 3. v. 19.

Which as soon as Jesus heard, he retir'd from *Judea*, out of *Herod's* reach, and went and preach'd the Gospel in *Galilee*. *Mat.* 4. v. 12. *Mark* 1. v. 14. *John* 4. v. 1.

Passing through *Samaria*, he instructs the Woman at the Well, and teaches the People, staying with them two Days. *John* 4. v. 4.

Then going to *Galilee*, he is honourably receiv'd by the *Galileans*, and much respected for the Signs he shew'd at the Passover in *Jerusalem*. *John* 4. v. 4.

When he came into *Cana* of *Galilee*, where he perform'd his first Miracle, he is solicited by a certain Nobleman to cure his Son of a Fever. *John* 4. v. 46.

Which having perform'd, he goes to *Nazareth*, and from thence to *Capernaum*, where he took up his Habitation. *Mat.* 4. v. 13.

Thence he went all over *Galilee*, preaching the Gospel, and healing all manner of Diseases. *Mat.* 4. v. 17, 23. *Mark* 1. v. 15.

The Multitude thronging about him on the Sea-side, he enters into *Simon's* Ship, and teaches the People from thence, and by the miraculous great Draught of Fishes convinces *Simon* and *Andrew* of his Power, whom, together with other two Brethren *James* and *John*, he lifts Disciples, who immediately quitted the Fishing-Trade, and follow'd him. *Mat.* 4. v. 18. *Mark* 1. v. 16. *Luke* 5. v. 1.

With these Disciples he went into the Synagogue at *Capernaum*, and after he had taught there, he cleans'd

one possessed with an unclean Spirit. *Mark 1. v. 21. Luke 4. v. 31.*

Going from the Synagogue to the House of *Peter*, he cureth his Wife's Mother of a Fever. *Mat. 8. v. 14. Mark 1. v. 29. Luke 4. v. 38.*

His Fame increasing by these Miracles, the People bring all their sick and possess'd to the Door, where by Imposition of Hands he cures them. *Mat. 8. v. 16. Mark 1. v. 32. Luke 4. v. 40.*

Early the next Morning he goes from *Capernaum* into a private Place to pray; from whence he went teaching and healing the People all over *Galilee*. *Mark 1. v. 35. Luke 4. v. 42.*

Being very much press'd by the Multitude, he had a mind to pass over the Lake of *Genesareth*. *Mat. 8. v. 18.*

Whither as he was passing, a Scribe offering to be his Disciple is rejected. *Mat. 8. v. 19.*

Whilst they were under Sail, and Jesus asleep, a violent Storm arose, which threatned them with Shipwreck; which Jesus, being awak'd by his Disciples, allays to their great Admiration. *Mat. 8. v. 24. Mark 4. v. 37. Luke 8. v. 23.*

Being come into the Country of the *Gergesenes*, which is opposite to *Galilee*, he dispossesses two *Demoniacs* in a great Presence of People; and permitting the Devils to enter into the Herd of Swine, they ran into the Lake. *Mat. 8. v. 28. Mark 5. v. 1. Luke 8. v. 26.*

Returning by Shipping into *Galilee*, he again enters *Capernaum*, where he heals a poor Paralytick that was let down through the Roof of the House to him. *Mat. 9. v. 1. Mark 2. v. 1. Luke 5. v. 18.*

Going from this House toward the Sea, he sees *Matthew* sitting at the Custom-house, whom he calls from his Employment to become his Disciple and Follower. *Mat. 9. v. 9. Mark 2. v. 14. Luke 5. v. 27.*

Being intreated by *Jairus*, a Ruler of the Synagogue, to come and heal his Daughter now at the point of Death, in his way a Woman by the Touch of his Garment is cur'd of a bloody Issue; and he coming to *Jairus's*



*Jairus's* House raiseth his Daughter from Death. *Mat.* 9. v. 18. *Mark* 5. v. 22. *Luke* 8. v. 41.

Going from hence he restores Sight to two blind Men, and dispossessed a Man of a dumb Spirit. *Mat.* 9. v. 27.

*The second Year of Christ's Preaching, beginning from the second Passover after his Baptism.*

**F**ROM *Galilee* Jesus goes up to *Jerusalem* to the second Passover after his Baptism.

At the Sheep-pool of *Bethesda*, on the Sabbath-Day, he healed a Man that had been diseased eight and thirty Years, so perfectly, that he was able to take up his Bed and walk; for which Fact the *Jews* reproaching him, he handsomly defends himself. *John* 5. v. 2.

Again he confutes the Pharisees, who condemn'd his Disciples for plucking the Ears of Corn, and rubbing them in their Hands, and eating them on the Sabbath. *Mat.* 12. v. 2. *Mark* 2. v. 23. *Luke* 6. v. 1.

He does the same thing a little after in a Synagogue of *Galilee*, by curing the wither'd Hand on the Sabbath-Day. *Mat.* 12. v. 9. *Mark* 3. v. 1. *Luke* 6. v. 6.

The Pharisees being very much incens'd at these things, Jesus withdraws to the Sea-side, and from a Vessel there teaches the People, and heals a Multitude of Sick and Demoniacks. *Mat.* 12. v. 15. *Mark* 3. v. 7.

At that time leaving the Multitude, he retires to a Mountain; and after he had tarry'd there all Night in Prayer, in the Morning calling his Disciples, he out of them chose twelve Apostles. *Mark* 3. v. 13. *Luke* 6. v. 12.

With them descending from the Mountain into the Champaign Country, he preaches to them and to a vast Multitude there present that excellent Sermon, which is call'd, The Lord's Sermon in the Mount, which contains a Summary of Christian Life, and Evangelical Perfection. *Mat.* 5. v. 1. *Luke* 6. v. 17.



Then he goes to *Capernaum*, where by the bare Touch of his Hand he cures a Leper. *Mat. 8. v. 1. Mark 1. v. 4. Luke 5. v. 12.*

Entering the Town he cures a Centurion's Servant of a Palsy. *Mat. 8. v. 5. Luke 7. v. 1.*

After this, at the Gates of *Naim*, he meets the Corps of an only Son of his Mother, carry'd out to be bury'd, whom he raises from the Dead, and restores to his Mother. *Luke 7. v. 11.*

*John* Baptist, hearing of these and other Miracles, sends from the Prison, where he had been confin'd by *Herod*, some of his Disciples to Jesus to be instructed by him. *Mat. 11. v. 2. Luke 7. v. 18.*

They being return'd, Jesus gives an ample Character of *John's* Person, Behaviour and Mission, and severely reprehends the People of the Age that would by no means of his be induced to repent of their ways. *Mat. 11. v. 7. Luke 7. v. 24.*

Jesus dining with one *Simon* a Pharisee, pardons the penitent *Magdalen*. *Luke 7. v. 36.*

He cureth a *Demoniack* blind and dumb at *Capernaum*. *Mat. 12. v. 22. Luke 11. v. 14.*

He silences the Scribes and Pharisees, who calumniate him for these Miracles, as if he did them by the help of the Devil; and they demand a Sign from Heaven. *Mat. 12. v. 24. Mark 3. v. 22. Luke 11. v. 15.*

During these things his Kindred come from *Nazareth*, thinking him to be mad, and to seize him. *Mark 3. v. 21, 31.*

Some one signifying to him, that his Kindred waited to speak with him, he tells them, that they were his Mother and his Brethren who heard the Word of God and kept it. *Mat. 13. v. 46. Mark 3. v. 31. Luke 8. v. 19.*

Going from the House to the Sea he instructed the Multitude, proposing to them the Parables of the Sower, the Tares, Mustard, Leven, which in private he explain'd to his Disciples; adding to them the Parables of the Treasure hid in a Field, the Pearl of great Price, and the Net cast into the Sea. *Mat. 13. v. 1. Mark 4. v. 1. Luke 8. v. 4.*

After

After this, going again into his own Country *Nazareth*, and preaching there in a Synagogue on the Sabbath-Day, they, instead of receiving him, cast him out of the City. *Mat. 13. v. 54. Mark 6. v. 1. Luke 4. v. 16.*

He goes teaching through all the Villages of *Nazareth*. *Mark 6. v. 6.*

After that he continues to go about all the Cities and Villages of *Galilee*, with his twelve Apostles, and certain Women whom he had healed, and who supply'd him with Necessaries. *Luke 8. v. 1.*

Having instructed his twelve Apostles, and given them Power to do Miracles, he sends them out by two and two to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ. *Mat. 10. v. 1. Mark 6. v. 7. Luke 9. v. 1.*

They going through the Villages preach the Gospel every where, cast out Devils, anoint the weak with Oil, and heal the Sick. *Mark 6. v. 12. Luke 9. v. 6.*

Nor is Jesus idle at the same time, for he travels about *Galilee*. *Mat. 11. v. 1.*

About, or rather a little before this time, *John* the Baptist by Command of *Herod*, at the Instigation and Cunning of *Herodias* and her Daughter, is beheaded in Prison. *Mark 6. v. 21, &c.*

*Herod* hearing of the great Fame of Jesus, and the Miracles he did, suspects him to be *John*, whom he lately murder'd in Prison, risen from the Dead. *Mat. 14. v. 1. Mark 6. v. 14. Luke 9. v. 7.*

The Apostles being return'd to Jesus, he with them retires into the Defart of *Bethsaida* beyond the Sea of *Galilee*; whither the Multitude following him, after he had instructed them and healed their Sick, he fed five thousand of them with five Barley Loaves and two Fishes, twelve Baskets of Fragments being taken up. *Mat. 14. v. 13. Mark 6. v. 30. Luke 9. v. 10. John 6. v. 1.*

This Miracle being perform'd in the Evening, he commands his Disciples to cross over the Sea, himself retiring to a Mountain to pray. *Mat. 14. v. 22. Mark 6. v. 5. John 6. v. 15.*

Jesus seeing his Disciples labouring all Night against a Storm, about the fourth Watch, that is, towards Morning, came walking upon the Sea, which *Peter* at his Command attempted; but being ready to sink, Jesus recovers him, takes him with him into the Ship, and quiets the Storm. *Mat. 14. v. 24. Mark 6. v. 48. John 6. v. 18.*

Going on, short of *Genesareth*, he heals the Sick with only the Touch of his Clothes. *Mat. 14. v. 34. Mark 6. v. 53.*

Then going into a Synagogue at *Capernaum*, and being known by some of those whom he had fed in the Desert with Bread, he declares to the People that he was the true Bread of Life, and that his Flesh was Meat, and his Blood Drink, to all that take it by way of Salvation. *John 6. v. 24.*

*The third Tear of the preaching of Christ, beginning from the third Passover after his Baptism.*

**T**HIS Passover the holy Jesus went not up to *Jerusalem*, because he knew the Jews sought an occasion to kill him. *John 7. v. 1.*

Therefore whilst he spent his time in *Galilee*, certain Lawyers coming from *Jerusalem* to *Galilee* to quarrel with him, disputed about the Observation of their ancient Traditions with him. *Mat. 15. v. 1. Mar. 7. v. 1.*

Then Jesus going from *Galilee* towards the Coasts of *Tyre* and *Sidon*, dispossesses the Woman of *Canaan's* Daughter of a Devil. *Mat. 15. v. 21.*

From whence returning to the Sea of *Galilee*, he healeth a Multitude of sick Persons that they brought to him, and among them one that was deaf and dumb. *Mat. 15. v. 29, &c.*

At that time compassionating the Multitude, that were faint through want of Food, he wrought a great Miracle, feeding four thousand Men with seven Loaves and a few little Fishes; after which plentiful Meal there remain'd seven Baskets full of Fragments. *Mat. 15. v. 32. Mark 8. v. 1.* After

After which Miracle he cross'd the Sea, and went into the Coasts of *Magdala* and *Dalmanutha*. *Mat. 15.*

*v. 39. Mark 7. v. 31.*

Whilst he was there, the Pharisees and Sadduces demand a Sign of his Mission from Heaven; which he refusing, going on board a Ship, crosses back again, admonishing his Disciples to beware of the Leven of the Pharisees and Sadduces. *Mat. 16. v. 1. Mark 8. v. 11.*

When he came to *Bethsaida*, he restor'd to sight a blind Man that sat without the Village. *Mark 8. v. 22.*

Going from thence to the Parts of *Cæsarea Philippi*, he tries *Peter's* Faith concerning himself, promising upon this Rock to build his Church. *Mat. 16. v. 13. Mark 8. v. 27. Luke 9. v. 18.*

After this he foretels the Death and Passion which he was to suffer at *Jerusalem*; which *Peter* hearing with Horror, our Lord blames him, and teaches them, that every one that will be sav'd must take up his Cross and follow him. *Mat. 16. v. 21. Mark 8. v. 31. Luke 9. v. 22.*

Eight Days after the Confession of *Peter* our Lord was transfigured in the Mount, where he gave his Disciples a Taste of that future Glory which they were to expect from the Merits of the Cross, and receiv'd a Testimony of it from *Moses*, *Elias*, and his Father. *Mat. 17. v. 1. Mark 9. v. 1. Luke 9. v. 28.*

The Day after he went down from the Mount with his Disciples, and cur'd a Lunatick, casting out a dumb Devil, which his Disciples had in vain attempted. *Mat. 17. v. 14. Mark 9. v. 13. Luke 9. v. 37.*

As he was journeying through *Galilee*, he again foretels his Passion, Death and Resurrection. *Mat. 17. v. 22. Mark 9. v. 29. Luke 9. v. 44.*

Entering *Capernaum*, to avoid Offence, he commands *Peter* to pay the Tribute-Money to the Collectors. *Mat. 17. v. 24.*

Being at home, he reproveth the inordinate Ambition of his Disciples, who on the way had contended for Supremacy. *Mat. 18. v. 1. Mark 9. v. 32. Luke 9. v. 46.*



At the same time he advises them studiously to avoid Offences, to admonish an offending Brother, and to be ready to forgive all Injuries offer'd to us, by the Example of the King that call'd his Servants to an Account, and others. *Mat. 18. v. 6. Mark 9. v. 41. Luke 17. v. 1.*

The Feast of Tabernacles being now at hand, his Kindred, more out of Ambition than Religion, press him very earnestly to appear publicly in *Judea* on the Feast-Day, and shew himself to the World: But he, making as if he would oblige their Expectation, tarry'd till they were gone, and then went up in private; after that he went with them from *Galilee* into *Judea*. *Mat. 19. v. 1. John 7. v. 2.*

In his Journey, being deny'd Entertainment by the *Samaritans*, his Disciples would have had him revenge the Affront by calling down Fire from Heaven, but he reprov'd their Heat; and on the contrary cleans'd ten Lepers, praising the one penitent thankful Leper above all the rest. *Luke 9. v. 54. and 17. v. 11.*

From *Samaria* he passes beyond *Jordan* into the Borders of *Judea*. *Mat. 19. v. 1. Mark 10. v. 1.*

Then entering *Jerusalem* about the midst of the Feast of Tabernacles, he taught in the Temple with such Efficacy and Power, that he provok'd the *Jews* to send Officers to apprehend him. *John 7. 46.*

In the Evening of the last Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, he went out of the City to Mount *Olivet*. *John 8. v. 1.*

The Day following returning from Mount *Olivet* into the Temple, he dismisses the Woman accus'd of Adultery; shaming his Enemies, who treacherously endeavour'd to insnare him. *John 8. v. 2.*

Then in a new Discourse he shew'd them who he was; and at length when the *Jews* were ready to stone him, he privately withdrew from the Temple. *John 8. v. 12.*

Passing by a Man that had been blind from his Birth, he recover'd his Sight, making an Ointment of Spittle and Clay, and putting it on his Eyes. And this was on the Sabbath-Day. *John 9. v. 1.* After



After this he discourses about the true Shepherd, the Hireling, and the Sheep; affirming himself to be the true and good Shepherd. *John 10. v. 1.*

Then leaving *Jerusalem*, he travels through the Cities and Villages of *Judea* and *Berea*, sending seventy Disciples two by two with the same Commission he had before given the twelve Apostles, to go into every City and Village whither himself wasto come. *Luke 10. v. 1.*

The seventy being return'd, he preaches up modest Behaviour to his Disciples, and thanks God he had lost none of them. *Luke 10. v. 17. Mat. 11. v. 25.*

By the Application of the Parable of the robb'd and wounded Person reliev'd by a *Samaritan*, he instructs an arrogant Lawyer set to tempt him, whom it was we ought to love most, and who was the true Neighbour. *Luke 10. v. 30.*

Being hospitably entertain'd in *Bethany* by two Sisters, he prefers the holy and devout Leisure of *Mary*, before the sollicitous busy Service and Attendance of *Martha*. *Luke 10. v. 38.*

Returning from his usual Devotion of Prayer, he teaches his Disciples the Form of Prayer, called, *The LORD's PRAYER*; which is the same he taught them the second Year of his preaching in the Mount, when he taught the Multitude. *Luke 11. v. 1.*

Then he teaches them Perseverance in Prayer. *Luke 11. v. 5. and 18. v. 1.*

Being invited to a Dinner by a certain Pharisee, he with great Freedom sharply inveighs against the preposterous Cleanliness, Ambition and Hypocrisy of the Pharisees; and many other of their Vices. *Luke 11. v. 37.*

From hence he takes occasion to caution them against Covetousness and the Care of temporal things, with the Instance of him that would not divide the Inheritance with his Brother. *Luke 12. v. 13.*

Being acquainted with the Death of the *Galileans*, whose Blood *Pilate* mingled with their own Sacrifices, he invites all Men to Repentance; otherwise, like the barren Fig-tree, they would be cut off. *Luke 13. v. 1.*

He

He cures a Woman that had been crooked eighteen Years, and reprimanded the Ruler of the Synagogue who murmured at his working this Cure on the Sabbath Day. *Luke 13. v. 11.*

After he had gone through many Towns and Villages, as he was journeying toward *Jerusalem*, being asked, whether there were but few that shou'd be sav'd, he advises them to enter in at the straight Gate, which being once shut, many shou'd knock in vain. *Luke 13. v. 22.*

The same Day, being caution'd by the Pharisees to go from thence to avoid the Fury of *Herod*, he tells them he must die at *Jerusalem*. *Luke 13. v. 31.*

Being invited to Dinner by an eminent Pharisee on the Sabbath-day, he cur'd a Man troubled with a Dropsy, justifying the Legality of the Cure from the Instance of the Ass or Ox fallen into a Pit. Then he instructs both his Host and the Guests in many wholesome Doctrines. *Luke 14. v. 1.*

In his Journey he teaches the Multitude what Qualifications are necessary for him that would be his Disciple. *Luke 14. v. 25.*

He exhorts them to Alms-giving, proposing the Examples of the unjust Steward and the rich Glutton. *Luke 16. v. 1, &c.*

He confutes the Scribes and Pharisees, who murmured because he entertain'd Sinners; proposing three Allusions, of the lost Sheep, the lost Groat, and the lost Son. *Luke 15. v. 1.*

In the Winter he returns to *Jerusalem* at the Feast of the Dedication, and walking in the Temple, in *Solomon's* Porch, he disputes with the *Jews* about him. *John 10. v. 22.*

Who designing to seize him, he withdraws from them; and seeing he could do no good with them, he goes again to the Borders of *Judea* into *Bethany*, or *Bethabara*, the Place where *John* first baptiz'd, and tarry'd there. *John 10. v. 39, 40.*

Whither when many People resorted to him, after his usual manner, he taught and healed them. *John 10. v. 41. Mat. 19. v. 2. Mark 10. v. 1.* There

There he disputes with the Lawyers concerning Divorces and the Firmness of Marriage, preferring Cœlibacy to Matrimony; together with many other Instructions there. *Mat. 19. v. 3. Mark 10. v. 2.*

He will not suffer the young Children to be kept from him, but laying his Hands upon them he blesseth them. *Mat. 19. v. 13. Mark 1. v. 39. Luke 18. v. 15.*

A wealthy young Man is deterr'd from following Jesus, by his proposing to him a State of Poverty. *Mat. 19. v. 16. Luk. 18. v. 24.*

Upon which occasion he shews them how difficult it is for those that persue the Riches of this World to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, and at the same time declares the Happiness of those that quit all for the sake of God. *Mat. 19. v. 23. Mark 10. v. 23. Luke 18. v. 24.*

By proposing the Parable of the Labourers that were hired to work in the Vineyard, he shews them, that it often happens that they who are least in the Eye of the World, are esteem'd the greatest with God. *Mat. 20. v. 1.*

Whilst he was on the Borders of *Judea*, he receives a Message from the two Sisters at *Bethany* of the Sickness of *Lazarus*; nor would he stir from thence till he had heard that *Lazarus* was dead. *John 11. v. 1.*

Coming to *Bethany*, he comforteth *Mary* and *Martha* with good Hope, bringing to Life their Brother *Lazarus*, who had been four Days dead. *John 11. v. 17.*

Many of those who were present at the working this Miracle were induced to believe in Jesus, upon which the Chief Priests and the Pharisees resolutely determine his Destruction. *John 11. v. 46.*

Wherefore *Jesus* with his Disciples return'd from *Bethany* to the Borders of *Judea*, to a Country near the Wilderness, unto a City called *Ephrem*. *John 11. v. 54.*

After he had stay'd there some days in private, the Passover being at hand, he goes up to *Jerusalem*, in his Journey thither hinting to his Disciples apart the Death of the Cross, and other things which he was to suffer

suffer there. *John* 11. v. 65. *Mat.* 20. v. 17. *Mark* 10. v. 32. *Luke* 18. v. 31.

Notwithstanding this Discourse, that his Death was at hand, the Disciples being possess'd with the Notion that he was now going to *Jerusalem* to take Possession of his Kingdom, the Sons of *Zebedee* intreat him by their Mother, that they might have the Priority in his Kingdom; which Request very much disgusted the rest of the Apostles, who hitherto were apt to think too well of themselves. *Mat.* 20. v. 20. *Mark* 10. v. 35. *Luke* 19. v. 11.

Going from hence he passes directly over to the City of *Jericho*, and is very friendly entertain'd by *Zacheus* the Publican. *Luke* 19. v. 1.

Going from that City toward *Jerusalem*, he restor'd Sight to two blind Beggars, the Name of one of whom was *Bartimeus* the Son of *Timeus*. *Matthew* 20. v. 29. *Mark* 10. v. 46. *Luke* 18. v. 35.

Prosecuting his Journey, before the six Days of the Passover; that is, the Day of Preparation, or Friday before the Passover, he came to *Bethany*. *John* 12. v. 1.

There the Day following, being the Sabbath-Day, he is honourably receiv'd and entertain'd at Supper in the House of *Simon* the Leper, *Lazarus* sitting at Table with him, and *Martha* attending, whilst *Mary* pours a Vial of rich Balsam or Unguent upon his Head. *Mat.* 26. v. 26. *Mark* 14. v. 3. *John* 12. v. 2.

The Disciples thinking much of this profuse Waste of the Unguent, as they thought, and especially *Judas* the Traitor, they are severely reprehended by the Lord. *Mat.* 26. v. 8. *Mark* 14. v. 4. *John* 12. v. 4.

The Day after, which we call the Lord's-Day, going from *Bethany* to *Bethphage*, and to Mount *Olivet* from thence, sitting on an Ass, which he commanded to be brought, he permitted the Disciples to spread their Garments thereon, and made his publick Entry into *Jerusalem*, the Multitude all the Way congratulating his Appearance with cutting down Branches of Trees, strowing their Clothes in the way, and with Acclamations of Joy, crying out, Blessed is he that cometh



cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of *Israel*.  
*Mat. 21. v. 1. Mark 11. v. 1. John 12. v. 12.*

Coming near to *Jerusalem*, as soon as he saw it, he wept over it, and foretold its Destruction, which would certainly come, because the People would not know the Time of their Visitation. *Luke 19. v. 41.*

With this sort of Pomp he enters the City, and visiting the Temple first, he purg'd it from the Pollutions of the Merchants, and adorn'd it with many Cures and Gifts of Salvation and Health. *Mat. 21. v. 12. Mark 11. v. 15. Luke 19. v. 45.*

The chief *Jews* being incensed at these things, and on the other hand the *Gentiles* earnestly pressing to see Jesus, he is glorified of his Father by a Voice from Heaven. *Mat. 21. v. 15. Luke 19. v. 39. John 12. v. 20.*

In the Evening going out of the City to *Bethany*, and returning the Day after, which was *Monday*, he cursed the barren Fig-Tree; and after he had spent that Day in teaching in the Temple, he again went out of the City to *Bethany*. *Mat. 21. v. 17. Mark 11. v. 11.*

Early on *Tuesday* Morning, as he return'd to the City, his Disciples observing the Fig-Tree, which he had before cursed, and was dried up by the Roots, he taught them the Efficacy and Virtue of Faith. *Mat. 26. v. 20. Mark 11. v. 20.*

Afterwards being in the Temple, and the Chief Priests and Rulers of the People asking him by what Authority he did these things, he very handsomly confutes them, and plainly accuses them, that they knowing him to be Christ would not acknowledg him, lest they should lose some Advantage of their own; wherefore he foretels their Ruin. *Mat. 21. v. 23. Mark 11. v. 27. Luke 20. v. 1.*

But when the *Jews* durst not lay hands on Jesus for fear of the People, they endeavour to insnare him in his Discourse, proposing several cunning intricate Questions to him about the Tribute, Resurrection, and greatest Commandment: From all which he extricated himself



himself by his prudent inoffensive Answers. *Mat. 22. v. 15. Mark 12. v. 13. Luke 20. v. 20.*

At last Jesus put a Question to them concerning the two-fold Nature of Christ, which unexpected Difficulty they declar'd they could not answer. *Mat. 22. v. 41. Mark 12. v. 35. Luke 20. v. 41.*

Then he inveighs severely against their Hypocrisy, and other Crimes, threatening them with divine Vengeance. *Mat. 23. v. 1. Mark 12. v. 15. Luke 20. v. 45.*

Afterwards as he sat opposite to the Treasury, and saw the many Presents there offered, he prefers the Gift of the poor Widow, which consisted but of two Mites, before all the Offerings of the Wealthy. *Mark 12. v. 41. Luke 21. v. 1.*

Then as he was going out of the Temple, his Disciples beginning to consider and admire the Beauty of the Structure, he foretold the Ruin of it. *Mat. 24. v. 1. Mark 13. v. 1. Luke 21. v. 5.*

Going afterwards to the Mount of *Olives*, and seating himself opposite to the Temple, being asked of his Disciples when these things should be, and what Sign there would be of their coming, and the Consummation of all things: he answered in the first Place, The Signs of the Destruction of *Jerusalem* would be the same with those of the end of the World; then he tells them the particular Sign of the Ruin of *Jerusalem* and the Temple; and finally, the Signs peculiar to the Consummation of the whole World. *Mat. 24. v. 3. Mark 13. v. 3. Luke 21. v. 7.*

And yet notwithstanding these Signs, he tells them the Day of his coming is uncertain, and therefore they must watch, lest the Time catch them unprepar'd; proposing at the same time several Parables for the help of their Understanding, as that of the ten Virgins, the slothful Servant, &c. *Mat. 24. v. 36. Mark 13. v. 32. Luke 21. v. 34. Mat. 25. v. 1, &c.*

Lastly, he gives them a formal Description of the last Judgment. *Mat. 25. v. 31.*

Drawing out the Time till Midnight with these sorts of Discourses, that is, towards the beginning of *Wednesday*, Jesus adds, that after two Days he shou'd be crucified, namely on the very Passover. *Mat. 26. v. 1.*

By break of Day on *Wednesday*, Judas enters into a Conspiracy against his Lord and Master with the Chief Priests, about apprehending him, agreeing with them for thirty Pieces of Silver. *Mat. 26. v. 3, 14. Mark 14. v. 1, 10. Luke 22. v. 1.*

On *Thursday*, about Noon, Jesus sent two of his Disciples into the City, to prepare the Paschal Entertainment for them all in a House which they never before knew; but by the Master of it and other Circumstances they find it, and do as he commanded them. *Mat. 26. v. 17. Mark 14. v. 12. Luke 26. v. 7.*

*The fourth Year of Christ, beginning from the fourth Passover after his Baptism.*

**T**HE first Day of this Year, that is, on the Feast-Day of the Passover, or first Day of Unleavened Bread, which began on *Thursday* at Sun-rising, Jesus eat the Paschal Lamb with his Apostles at *Jerusalem*. *Mat. 26. v. 20. Mark 14. v. 17. Luke 22. v. 14.*

After the eating of the Lamb, and the common Supper, Jesus taking a Bason of Water washed his Apostles Feet. *John 13. v. 1.*

After this he institutes his last Supper, commanding them always to do it in Remembrance of him. *Mat. 26. v. 26. Mark 14. v. 22. Luke 22. v. 19.*

Then he discovers to them that he should that very Night be betray'd by one of them. *Mat. 26. v. 21. Mark 14. v. 18. Luke 22. v. 21. John 13. v. 31.*

Judas being mark'd from the rest by taking of the Sop, goes out and finishes his Treason. *John 13. v. 26.*

After these things the Disciples began again to dispute about Priority. *Luke 22. v. 24.*

Where-

Whereupon Jesus recommends to them the Practice of Humility, and the new Command of mutual Love, promising to them all the Honour of the Kingdom of Heaven. *Luke 22. v. 26. John 13. v. 34.*

Then he foretels his Departure and Death; and *Peter* arrogantly promising to follow him, where-ever he went, Jesus prophesies of his triple Denial of him. *Luke 22. v. 31. John 13. v. 36.*

By and by, for the Consolation of his Disciples, whom he perceived very sad, in a long Sermon he by various Methods raised their dejected Spirits, and fortify'd them against present Evils; adding likewise a Prayer, whereby he not only recommends them, but all that believe to the Father. *John Ch. 14, 17.*

This Sermon he enlarges and finishes on the Way as he goes from the City towards the Mount of *Olives*, *John Ch. 15, 16.*

In his Walk thither he foretels his Disciples that they will be all very much offended; and *Peter* with great Assurance boasting himself more on his Fortitude than the rest, Jesus declares and foretels that his Fall shall be greater than any of the others. *Mat. 25. v. 31. Mark 14. v. 27.*

As these things were transacted, passing the Brook *Cedron* about Midnight, he came to a Village call'd *Gethsemane*, situated at the Foot of the Mount of *Olives*, where he enter'd into the Garden to pray, according to his usual Custom. *Mat. 26. v. 36. Mark 14. v. 36. Luke 22. v. 39. John 18. v. 1.*

There taking *Peter* and the Sons of *Zebedee* apart from the rest of the Apostles, he began to shew a very great Anxiety and Heaviness of Spirit, insomuch that he sweated Water and Blood. *Mat. 26. v. 37. Mark 14. v. 33. Luke 22. v. 40.*

Having pray'd three times to his Father, an Angel from Heaven came and comforted him. *Mat. 26. v. 39. Mark 14. v. 35. Luke 22. v. 42.*

Coming from Prayer, he chides the sleeping Disciples, telling them the Traitor was at hand. *Mat. 26. v. 45. Mark 14. v. 41. Luke 22. v. 45.*

Then going to meet the Traitor and his Gang, he permitted him to give him the treacherous Signal, which was a Kiss. *Mat. 26. v. 48. Mark 14. v. 44. Luke 22. v. 47.*

But though he suffer'd *Judas* to give him the signal Kiss, yet he did not permit them to lay Hands on him; but asking the Multitude whom they sought, he at one Word laid them prostrate. *John 18. v. 3.*

After they were recover'd from their Surprise, and had heard him expostulating with, and forbidding them to do any Harm to his Apostles, with other seasonable Things, they were permitted to apprehend him. *Mat. 26. v. 55. Mark 14. v. 48. Luke 22. v. 52. John 18. v. 7.*

Which they no sooner attempted, but *Peter* drawing his Sword cuts off the right Ear of *Malchus*, a Servant of the High-Priest; for which Jesus reprehends him sharply, and forbids him the Use of the Sword under the Penalty of a Curse. *Mat. 26. v. 51. Mark 14. v. 47. Luke 22. v. 50. John 18. v. 10.*

The Disciples escaping by Flight, a certain young Man, (supposed to be *John*) with only a Linen Mantle thrown over his naked Body, followed Jesus when he was carried away by them that took him; but when they also laid hold on him, he left his Linen Garment in their Hands, and fled from them. *Mat. 26. v. 56. Mark 14. v. 50.*

Jesus being thus apprehended, is first carried before *Annas*, the Father-in-Law of *Caiaphas* the High-Priest. *John 18. v. 13.*

By and by being sent from *Annas* to *Caiaphas* the High-Priest, in whose House the Council met, he is there first of all confronted with false Witnesses. *Mat. 26. v. 59. Mark 14. v. 55.*

Afterwards being examined about his Disciples and his Doctrine, for answering him very freely, an Attendant of the High-Priest gave him a Blow on the Face. *John 18. v. 19.*



Lastly, Jesus being asked whether he was the Christ the Son of God, he confessing it is condemned as worthy of Death. *Mat. 26. v. 63. Mark 14. v. 61.*

Whilst these Things passed within, *Peter* being in the High-Priest's Hall is known to be of Jesus's Family by the Maid and Servants, upon which *Peter* three times denies his Lord; but the third time hearing the Cock crow, he came to himself. *Mat. 26. v. 69. Mark 14. v. 66. Luke 22. v. 56. John 18. v. 16.*

Jesus being thus condemn'd, is expos'd to all the rude Insults of being spit upon, struck on the Head and Face, and the like, being the remaining Part of the Night treated after this ludicrous and ridiculous manner. *Mat. 26. v. 67. Mark 14. v. 65. Luke 22. v. 63.*

Very early in the Morning he is brought before the Council, and again condemn'd, because he confessed himself to be the Son of God. *Luke 22. v. 66.*

Being a third time condemned, he is led bound, and delivered to *Pilate* the Governor, to be slain by him. *Mat. 27. v. 1. Mark 15. v. 1. Luke 23. v. 1. John 18. v. 18.*

As soon as the Traitor *Judas* saw Things carried to this Extremity, he repented of what he had done, and openly returned the thirty Pieces of Silver, the Reward of his Treason; and finding no Comfort, he retires Home, and dies of Grief. *Mat. 27. v. 6.*

*Pilate* the Governor being unwilling to put Jesus to Death (though the Chiefs of the *Jews* had already condemned him) unless they shewed Cause, they accused Jesus to him, saying, That he call'd himself Christ the King of the *Jews*. *John 18. v. 29. Luke 23. v. 2.*

Jesus being examined separately by *Pilate*, whether he was the King of the *Jews* or not, he answer'd, He was; not according to the manner of the Kings of this World. *Mat. 27. v. 11. Mark 15. v. 2. Luke 23. v. 3. John 18. v. 33.*

*Pilate* being very inclinable to release Jesus, the *Jews* oppose it with all their Might; crying out that he was



a seditious Person, and disturber of the People from *Galilee* even to *Judea*. *Luke 23. v. 4.*

*Pilate* hearing that *Jesus* was of *Galilee*, that he might the more plausibly extricate himself from the Trouble of the Trial, sends him to *Herod* the Tetrarch of *Galilee*, who at that time was at *Jerusalem*. *Luke 23. v. 6.*

But *Herod* being disappointed in his Expectation concerning *Jesus*, sends him away in Contempt, in Mockery putting on him a white Robe. *Luke 23. 8.*

*Pilate* considering *Jesus* as an innocent Person, in-  
deavours to persuade the *Jews* to accept of his Life as a Donative from him to the People at this Paschal Festival: But they preferring *Barabbas* the Thief before the innocent *Jesus*, demanded a Pardon for *Barabbas*, but cried out most furiously for executing *Jesus*. *Mat. 27. v. 15. Mark 15. v. 6. Luke 23. v. 17. John 18. v. 39.*

But when this Method also proved ineffectual for the saving of *Jesus*, *Pilate* commanded *Jesus* to be scourged: and being crowned with Thorns, disgraced all manner of Ways, and ridicul'd as a King in Misery, in this wretched Condition, thinking to move them to Pity, he shews him a sad Spectacle to the People. *Mat. 27. v. 28. Mark 15. v. 17. Luke 23. v. 15. John 19. v. 1.*

Being not able this way to satisfy them, but that the more he strove to appease them, the more outrageous they grew, crying out, *Crucify him, Crucify him*; he still opposes their Obstinacy, which they as warmly incounter: for fearing that an Offence against Man might be pardon'd, they bring a new Accusation against *Jesus*, affirming that he made himself the Son of God. *John 19. v. 7.*

But *Pilate* disdain-  
ing to try *Jesus* by the *Jews* Laws, still mov'd to have him acquitted; whereupon they seeing he protracted Time only to save *Jesus*, openly clamour'd, and threaten'd him with *Cesar's* Displeasure: Then *Pilate* took his Place on the Tribunal, calling for *Jesus* to be set before him. *John 19. v. 13.*

Whilst *Pilate* was on the Bench his Wife sent to him; desiring him not to meddle with that just Person *Jesus*, for she had suffered very much in her Dreams concerning him. *Mat. 26. v. 19.*

*Pilate* having all manner of ways testified *Jesus's* Innocence, even by the publick washing of his Hands in open Court, declaring him altogether unworthy of Death; yet when the *Jews* so obstinately persisted, that nothing but his Blood will satisfy them, and that they readily took the Guilt of it upon themselves and their Posterity, he at last gave way to their Desire, and deliver'd *Jesus* to them. *Mat. 27. v. 23. Mark 15. v. 14. Luke 23. v. 20. John 19. v. 15.*

Then the Soldiers brought *Jesus* loaden with his Cross from the *Pratorium* without the City, a vast Multitude of all Sorts of People following him. *Mat. 27. v. 31. Luke 23. v. 27.*

After they had led him without the Gates of the City, taking the Cross from *Jesus*, for Expedition sake, they force one *Simon of Cyrene* to carry it. *Mat. 27. v. 32. Mark 15. v. 21. Luke 23. v. 26.*

Among the Multitude that followed *Jesus* there were certain Women of *Jerusalem* that deplored the sad Calamities and Afflictions of *Jesus*, who bid them mourn for themselves, and not for him; foretelling at the same time the Vengeance that was to fall on them and their Children. *Luke 23. v. 27.*

When he was come to Mount *Calvary*, the Place of Execution, they gave *Jesus* Wine mingled with Myrrh, which he refused to drink; and likewise Wine mingled with Gall, which he also refused. *Mat. 27. v. 34. Mark 15. v. 23.*

After this they lay him on the Cross, fastening him with four Nails to it; he at the same time praying for his Crucifiers. *Mat. 27. v. 35. Luke 23. v. 33.*

Then fixing on the Cross the Title of *Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews*, they set up the Cross with *Jesus* on it. *Mat. 27. v. 37. Mark 15. v. 26. Luke 23. v. 38. John 19. v. 19.*

And

And to add the greater Ignominy to his Innocence, they crucify two Thieves with him, one upon each Side. *Mat. 27. v. 38. Mark 15. v. 27. Luke 23. v. 33. John 19. v. 18.*

Then the Soldiers before the Face of the crucified Jesus divide his Garments, and cast Lots. *Mat. 27. v. 35. Mark 15. v. 24. Luke 23. v. 34. John 19. v. 23.*

The Multitude looking on, the Rulers of the People with the Soldiers deride and insult the Holy Jesus in his Agony with the utmost Contempt. *Mat. 27. v. 39. Mark 15. v. 29. Luke 23. v. 35.*

One of the Thieves that was crucified with him did the same, but is reproved by the other, justifying Jesus, and condemning themselves; and, though late, recognizing his King and Saviour, he prays him to remember him when he comes into his Kingdom. *Luke 23. v. 29.*

Jesus from the Cross, though in the greatest Torment, seeing his Mother, recommends her to the Care of his favourite Disciple standing by. *John 19. v. 25.*

From the Time that Jesus hung on the Cross, there was an universal Darkness till three of the Clock. *Mat. 27. v. 45. Mark 15. v. 33. Luke 23. v. 44.*

About three of the Clock Jesus cried out, *Eli, Eli, &c.* *Mat. 23. v. 46. Mark 15. v. 34.*

A little after Jesus saying *I thirst*, and they offering him Vinegar to drink, he refused it, adding, *It is finished.* *John 19. v. 28.*

Then crying aloud, *Father into thine Hands I commend my Spirit*, and bowing his Head, he gave up the Ghost. *Mat. 27. v. 50. Mark 15. v. 37. Luke 23. v. 46. John 19. v. 30.*

Whilst these things passed, the Veil of the Temple was rent in two, the Earth trembled, and many strange and wonderful Things happen'd: Which the Captain of the Roman Guard, together with the Soldiers and Multitude, observing, they were so astonish'd, that

they smote their Breasts, and return'd home, justifying Jesus's Innocence. *Luke 23. v. 47.*

The Chief of the *Jews* having obtain'd leave from *Pilate* that the Legs of the Criminals might be broken, in order to take them from the Cross by reason of the approaching Sabbath, they break the Legs of the two Thieves; but coming to Jesus, and finding him already dead, they did not brake his Legs; but one of the Soldiers thrust a Lance through his Side, out of which there immediately issued Water and Blood. *John 19. v. 31.*

After these Things *Joseph of Arimathea*, having obtained Licence from the Governor, takes the Body of Jesus from the Cross, imbalms it with rich Spices and Perfumes, wraps it up in fine Searcloth; and with the Help of *Nicodemus*, a former Disciple of Christ, buries it in a new Tomb of his own, which he had but a little before order'd to be made for himself. *Mat. 27. v. 57. Mark 15. v. 42. Luke 23. v. 50. John 19. v. 38.*

Jesus being buried the Evening before the Sabbath, the Princes and Chief of the *Jews* having obtain'd the Grant of a Guard from the Governor, set them to watch the Body of Jesus, to prevent, as they vainly imagin'd, his Resurrection on the third Day, sealing the Grave-Stone with their Signet, and rolling a great Stone to the Entrance of the Sepulchre. *Mat. 27. v. 62.*

On the Evening of the same Day, the Sabbath being ended, *Mary Magdalen*, and other religious Women, having provided Spices to continue the Imbalment, early the next Morning came to the Sepulchre, with an intent to anoint and preserve the Body of Jesus. *Mat. 28. v. 1. Mark 16. v. 1. Luke 24. v. 1. John 20. v. 1.*

As they approached the Holy Sepulchre, they saw an Angel, which had descended from Heaven, and moved the Stone from the Entrance of the Sepulchre, sitting on it. *Mat. 28. v. 2.*



The Appearance of the Angel, whose Descent was attended with a mighty Concussion of the Earth and Air, so affrighted the Soldiers that guarded the Sepulchre, that they were almost dead with Fear. *Mat. 28.*

*v. 4.*

The Women entring the Sepulchre, the Angel bids them be of good Courage, tells them that Jesus was risen; bids them come further into the Sepulchre, that they might see the empty Grave, where the Lord had lain, which they accordingly did. *Mat. 28. v. 15.*

*Mark 16. v. 5. Luke 24. v. 3.*

As the Women went out of the Sepulchre, and not thoroughly persuaded of their Lord's Resurrection, two Angels more appeared to them, and told them the same Thing. *Luke 24. v. 4.*

Upon which being confirm'd of the Truth of his Resurrection, they hasten to the Apostles as fast as they can, declaring, and affirming that the Body of Jesus was not in the Sepulchre, and that they had seen a Vision of Angels, who told them that he was alive.

*Luke 24. v. 9, 23. John 20. v. 2.*

Hereupon *Peter* and *John* ran to the Sepulchre, where *John* arrived first, and not finding the Body of Jesus they returned home wondering. *Luke 24. v. 12.*

*John 20. v. 3.*

*Mary Magdalen* returned to the Sepulchre, and continuing there weeping, Jesus shewed himself alive to her first. *Mark. 16. v. 9. John 20. v. 11.*

When *Mary Magdalen* had inform'd the other Holy Women of this, they all haste together to the Apostles to tell them what had happen'd; and as they went, Jesus met them by the way, shewing himself alive to them.

*Mat. 28. v. 9.*

After these Things the Angels disappearing, the Soldiers that guarded the Sepulchre went into the City; and being corrupted with Money by the High-Priest and Rulers, spread abroad a Report, that the Disciples of Jesus came privately in the Night, and stole away the Body. *Mat. 28. v. 11, &c.*



The Women affirming Jesus to be alive, and the Apostles not believing them, Jesus at last appeared to *Peter*. *Luke 24. v. 34.*

After this he appeared to *Cleophas* and another Disciple as they were going to *Emmaus*. *Luke 24. v. 13. Mark 16. v. 12.*

Last of all, on the Evening of the first Sabbath after the Crucifixion, that is on the Lord's Day, Jesus appeared to all the Apostles, except *Thomas*, and did eat and drink with them. *Mark 16. v. 14. Luke 24. v. 36. John 20. v. 19.*

*Thomas* refusing to believe his Brethren, the eighth Day after the Passion Jesus again appeared to them, and permitted *Thomas* to satisfy his Incredulity by feeling his Wounds. *John 20. v. 24.*

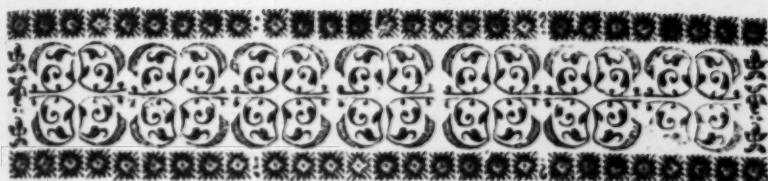
The Disciples going from hence to *Galilee*, as Jesus had commanded them, he meets them at the Sea of *Tiberias*, and there dines with them. *John 21. v. 1.*

Afterwards he appears to a great Number of his Disciples in the Mount, as he had appointed. *Mat. 28. v. 16.*

And having for forty Days conversed with his Disciples, and talked with them concerning the Kingdom of God, he in the sight of them all ascended into Heaven. *Mark 16. v. 19. Luke 24. v. 50. Acts 1. v. 3.*

Where he sits at the right Hand of the Father, with whom he governs the World, and particularly his Church, which he purchased with his own Blood. *Mark 16. v. 19.*

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